IN THE TABLOID: ART



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Step forward: The General Synod agrees to re-examine gays in clergy

Photograph: Justin Slee/Guzelian

# Gays Win key battles

but they still can't go to war

Kathy Marks, Colin Brown and Michael Streeter

The advancement of gay rights went two important stages forward yesterday when the Govcrnment paved the way for the age of consent to fall to 16, in line with most other European countries, and the Church of England moved towards a more relaxed attitude to gay clergy.
But the more liberal intentions

did not extend to the armed forces. Senior ministers said the Ministry of Defence will fight challenges in the European courts of justice and human rights over allowing homosexuals into the armed forces.

In the most significant of yesterday's moves, the Government confirmed it would not defend test cases soon to be heard by the European Commission on Human Rights which were seeking to make the age of consent for gay sex the same as for heterosexuals - currently 16.

This paves the way towards a free Commons vote, possibly this consent, a move almost certain to result in a change in the law.

In highly-charged scenes in York, members of the General Synod holding the first debate on the issue for ten years voted for further discussion on the question of homosexuality among Church of England clergy.
The Archbishop of Canter-

bury, Dr George Carey, poured cold water on gay Christians' hopes for a more liberal approach, saying he did not "share the assumption that it is only a matter of time before the Church

Government will not contest age of consent case in Europe

Church edges toward more relaxed attitude on gay clergy

... but ban on homosexuals in the armed forces stays

will change its mind".

The decision means that an issue which some hardliners have warned could lead to schism in the Church will not, as some scnior Anglicans had hoped, quietly fade away.

All three Houses of the Synod - the bishops, laity and cler-- approved a motion by the gy - approved a monon by the Ven David Gerrard, Archdeacon of York, calling on delegates to state that a 1991 report by bish-

subject". That document said that practising homosexuals could be lay members of the Church, but not priests.

The result was warmly welcomed by Richard Kirker, secretary of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement. "It represents a step forward for gay Christians seeking official acceptance at all levels of the urch," he said.

The Bishop of Oxford, the ops was "not the last word on the Right Rev Richard Harries, who



Age	s of	cor	iser	nt
Country Ma	ale/Fem	F/F	M/M	Equal since
Belgium	16	16	16	1985
Finland	16	18	18	N/A
France	15	15	15	1982
Greece	15	15	15	1987
Italy	16	16	16	1889
Malta	12	12	12	1973
San Marino	14	14	14	1865
Slovenia	14	14	14	1977
Spain	12	12	12	1822
UK	16	16	18	N/A

chairs a hishops' committee looking into the issue, said he was pleased that it would now be discussed at local level, "this is a cru-

cial moral issue," he said. The Bishop of Guildford, the Right Rev John Gladwin, who preached at the thanksgiving service for gay and lesbian Christians in Southwark Cathedral last November, said: "The debate can now go on in a more relaxed at-

The new approach on the age of consent, which was greeted with dismay and vitriol by some Tory MPs and family campaigners came after the Government said it would not be contesting a case brought by Euan Sutherland, challenging as discriminatory the legal age of consent for gays at 18, when the case comes before the European Court of Human Rights.

The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, is also ready to fulfill a Labour manifesto commitment to allow a free vote on reducing the age of consent for homosexuals to 16, the same age as for heterosexuals, which could change the law next year.

Downing Street said the decision not to contest the case and settle out of court was taken last week following "very strong advice ... that we were going to lose this court case". In the circumstances it seemed

reasonable that the consequent amendment to the law should be "legitimised" by means of a free vote. Three years ago MPs voted in favour of lowering the age of consent for gays from 21 to 18, but against reducing it to 16. Mothers and Sons; Synod's

fresh look, page 3

# Organ farms pose 'Artist' of death is

**Charles Arthur** Science Editor and Alison Goddard

0

Laboratories will soon be able to grow human hearts and other organs from tissue taken at birth from babies, American scientists have announced. Their pioneering work, though, raises fresh problems for moralists and politicians sprinting to catch up with science. In the logical conclusion of

that research, scientists in the UK, Japan and US are trying to develop an artificial womb which could sustain an embryo to its full term outside a human body. Already, a team at Juntendo University in Japan has used such a system to take a goat embryo from 40 days be-fore birth to term. The first use would be for premature babies,

suddenly, the gap between what biological science can and cannot do has begun to shrink rapidly. While European MEPs will today debate a new law which could rudically alter the laws over "ownership" of genes, a team of doctors at the University of Florida, Gainesville, is awaiting the outcome of yet ground-breaking another

On Friday, for the first time, a paralysed man was injected with cells from aborted foetuses, in the hope that they will

mundane, overshadowed by work now being done internationally by teams who intend to use ussue taken from human bahies or foetuses to grow new organs such as livers, pancreases, blood vessels and even hearts in the laboratory, ready for transplantation. Such in vitro organs could be reality in 10 to 15

#### It's going to topology of the abortion debate'

help repair his damaged spinal - sues taken, with the mothers' But even such pioneering surgery could soon become

repair themselves.
The Department of Health

# change the whole

But the accelerating approach of these medical and scientific breakthroughs is catching many people unawares, and exposing ethical and philosophical dilemmas - such as whether a foetus has rights, and how they can be balanced with medical help for others.

The spinal operation in Florida was conducted on a man suffering from syringomyelia—a painful and ultimately fatal condition where holes develop in the spinal cord. It was injected with foetal spinal cord tis-

permission, from foetuses aborted at between six and nine weeks. At that age, the nerve cells are still dividing; in adults, they do not, which is why spinal and brain injuries do not

said that in the UK, any use of foetal material would have to be cleared before treatment by the ethics committee of the hospi-tal, adding it would probably be highly unlikely to be granted. Peter Garrett, research di-

rector of Life, the anti-abortion group, said: "We oppose the use of aborted babies. We view the child in the womb as a person , this is functional use of parts of a person."

But he admitted that the eventual development of an artificial womb will pose enormous moral questions.

For example, it could mean that an "abortion" might not end the viability of a foetus. "You would still have abortion, but it would be ending the encumbrance of the unwanted child to the mother," said Mr Garrett. "I think that it's going to change the whole topology of the prolife and pro-abortion debate: there will be those who are against interference in the 'natural' process of having a child, and those who are in favour of some things. It's going to look more and more strange."

# ethical minefield jailed for 20 years



A self-portrait by Tadic exhibited in a London restaurant Photograph: John Voos

Steve Crawshaw

Dusan Tadic, the biggest of the small fish so far brought to trial in The Hague, was sentenced yesterday to 20 years' jail for war crimes committed in Bosnia in 1992. The court talked of his "fla-

grant disregard for human life". Tadic, a former café owner and police reservist, stood with a strained smile on his face as sentence was passed. He waved to his supporters in the public gallery as he was led away.

The sentence brought an angry response from Bosnian Serb leaders, with complaints about a "political sentence". Elsewhere, too, his supporters were ready to suggest that Tadic was a misunderstood man. In London, the Serb-born organiser of an exhibition of Tadic's paintings argued: "A person who paints like this can't possibly be the person they have made him out to be ... Personally, I've never come across a violent artist." (The example of the Austrian landscape painter who ruled Germany between 1933 and 1945 presumably did not come

Above all, Bosnian Serb leaders are now worried that tougher action may follow against the string-pullers of the Bosnian war, including Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic, generally seen as main instigators of the murderous

policy of ethnic cleansing. When Tadic was first put on trial in 1995 after his arrest in Germany the previous year, there was little obvious enthusiasm at the United Nations war

crimes tribunal in The Hague. One of the judges involved with The Hague said: "He is not the level of person I would like to see at The Hague. I think they should have aimed higher up.

The US presiding judge, Gabrielle Kirk McDonald, spoke yesterday of Tadic's "sadistic brutality". But, although Tadic practised his cruelty at the notorious Omarska camp, few would tag him as a national ringleader. The court talked of the "virulent propaganda" of Serb nationalist leaders. But Ms McDonald noted that Tadic must take responsibility for his own actions. "To condone your actions even when committed in this context is to give effect to a base view of morality and invite anarchy." Cook rides anger, page 13

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Road-rage' death claim
Tracie Andrews, accused of the
roadside murder of her fiancé, Lee
Harvey, told of their violent relationship and the "road-rage" race
that led to his death. Page 5

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#### significant shorts

#### Suspect meat plants closed over 'broken' beef-ban

Two meat plants suspected of breaking the worldwide ban on British beef exports have been closed, the Government announced

Jack Cunningham, the agriculture minister, said he had ordered an "immediate" end to operations at the two plants following investigations by ministry officials and the European Commission's anti-fraud unit. There was also evidence that the two plants had been breaking hygiene laws, he added,

Announcing the move, Dr Cumningham said: "Evidence is coming to light that some UK-based companies may have been exporting UK beef. There is evidence too that the companies in question have been failing to comply with the basic requirements on record keeping, whose purpose is to ensure that the origins of ment can be traced, and falling down on hygiene standards." He added: "I am determined to crack down hard on anyone who runs risks with public safety ... I am absolutely determined that the inquiries into this complex affair should be pursued to the end."

#### **BA strike threat recedes**

The immediate threat of renewed industrial action by British Airways cabin crew receded yesterday after management rapidly

reinstated employees it had suspended.

As management found work for returning strikers and avoided a call for another three-day strike, leaders of ground staff involved in a separate dispute effectively abandoned any plans for industrial action. Sources at the Transport and General Workers' Union conceded last night that it was earn light that it was now light action. conceded last night that it was now highly unlikely that the airline would face walkouts on two fronts. The news will be welcomed by BA directors who are hoping to present better news to shareholders at the company's annual general meeting today. It was not clear last night when the full timetable at Heathrow would be in operation, but Gatwick should today be back to normal.

#### Reggie Kray's jailhouse wedding



Reggie Kray, the former gangland boss, married his fiancée Roberta Jones yesterday in a prison ceremony

at Maidstone jail. Miss Jones, 38, met Kray, 63, when she visited the prison last year. Kray's first wife, Frances. committed suicide two years after they married in 1965. Since then, scores of women have applied to visit the former gangland boss at various orisons. Kray (left) is in the

29th year of a 30-year prison sentence for the murder of Jack "The Hat" McVitte in 1967. To celebrate his wedding, Kray organised a spectacular 30-minute laser show. Among the images projected on to the prison walls and inside the prison last night were wedding bells, and the names "Roberta and Reggie" flashed up in the night sky.

#### Drug smugglers jailed for 167 years

Nine smugglers were yesterday sentenced to jail terms totalling 167 years for their parts in an international drugs ring aimed at

flooding Britain with top-quality Colombian cocaine.

The men were sentenced at Bristol Crown Court after 18 months of trials arising from Operation Stealer, an undercover Customs and Excise coup, which smashed the ring and seized £65m worth of illegal drugs. The longest sentences of 25 years each were handed out to Brian Doran, 52, and Kenneth Togher, 33, both from Scotland, who masterminded the £34m cocaine cargo of the yacht Frugal seized in a

Customs swoop at Pevensey Bay, East Sussex, on 10 January 1995. Sentences of 18 years each were imposed on the yacht's skipper Robin Sargent, 54, Terence Reeves, 49, and George Caccavale, 56, who helped arrange the journey. Anthony White, 54, and John Short, 58. both from London, received 11-and-a-half and 9-and-a-half years respectively for their part in a separate drugs run at Dover. Dermot Trainer, 44, a van driver, and his passenger Stephen McKeown, 36, were each jailed for eight years for their part in the Dover run.

#### Judge sits on fence over hunting

The High Court yesterday reserved judgment on whether the National Trust is open to judicial review over its decision to ban

deer hunting on its land. The decision last April to impose the ban was condemned in court as "peremptory, unfair and invalid" by a QC representing West Country hunts and hunt supporters. Michael Beloff QC accused the Trust council of failing to carry out proper consultations before "obliterating an immemorial tradition after the briefest of debates". But Lindsay Boswell QC, for the Trust, argued in a day-long hearing that the charity was not open to judicial review and that the action should be blocked straight away. Mr Justice Tucker said he hoped to

#### Whitehall's U-turn on private prison

Acute prison over-crowding has forced the Government to perform a U-turn in Scotland by agreeing to allow the country's first privately financed jail to go ahead. Henry McLeish, the Scotlish Home Affairs minister, said that "despite reservations" about the principle of contracting out management of prisons, the planned B-category jail at Bowhouse, near Kilmarnock, will be built.

Jason Bennetto

#### Correction

A report yesterday stated that Virginia Bottomley was Secretary of State for Health when Tory members of the Commons select committee on health were accused of passing its reports to the Government and the committee was chaired by Marion Roc. This was incorrect. William Waldegrave was the Secretary of State for Health at that time and it was chaired by Nicholas Winterton. We are happy to set the record straight.

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## West End dream secones reality for unknown ac

t is the stuff that dreams are made of the star pulls out of a Nest End show and the unknown actor is plucked hopping legislon to play the leading role. But for Gart Norts, 24, the dream became reality yesterdiag when she was cast at Eliza Doolittle in a new production of Pygmatien, after Emily Lloyd pulled

out at the last minute.

Lioyd 26, who staired in the firm Wish You Were Here, was the original choice for the part, but withdraw after a dispute with her co-star/produces Roy Marsden.
The actress, who is in danger of becoming better
known for the parts she has lost than those she has played, said simply: "I thought it was the honourable thing to do in the circumstances."

However, the show's director, Giles Havergal, was the first to walk out. It was reported that he found Mi Lloyd impossible to work with.

"If there was any contention, it was try relationship. with a certain member of the cast," was all Miss Lloyd would say. "I was 100 per cent prepared. This role had been a dream of mine since longer than I can remember. and I wanted it to be brilliant."

Tim so exclude about this many electer stain working for BIII (his west in the stain stains and may write state the stains.

Miss Norte, who particulated from Paris and two drago, will share the stage with Michael Captack and bern Murrily.

George Bernard Stalle's play that has an Professional Stalle's play that has a Professional Stalle's play that has a Professional Stalle's play that has a Professional Stalle's play that he was a Profession

Higgins' bet with Cohons, Pictorials must be as the second form a Covert Carrier active substitution as less with the presented at cools. While the Discharge substitution of the Harrison, that it became best income.

Pygmalion previews at the Albert Tiester Econom from 23 July.

Rate: Warson Start.

Gates is richest

for third year

made him the richest person in the

world for the third year in a row -

cording to Forbes magazine, published in the US yesterday.

highest ever recorded in Farbes

is second to that of Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of the oil-rich king-

dom of Brunei, whose net worth

Forbes put at \$38bn, but higher

than that of Saudi Arabla's King

(\$16bn with the Royal Collection

Forbes said it excluded royal

list of the 200 wealthiest becaus their wealth derives more from po-

families and heads of state from its

litical heritage than from economic

Its roster of the super-rich also

extuded people who inherited their wealth and did not actively make

Taking second place, with a net

worth of \$27.6bn were the widow

and children of the US Wal-Mart

supermarkets founder, Sam Wal-

Super-investor Warren Buffett,

third, with a net worth of \$23.2bn.

Hong Kong's Lee Shau Kee, who

made his fortune in property, was

dubbed the "Sage of Omaha." was

money or manage it.

ton, who died in 1992.

Fahd (\$20bn) and the Queen

including the Crown Jewels.

\$350m without)

Gates' net worth is \$36.4bn, the

11th annual tally of the 200 richest

The 41-year-old tyccon's fortune

and his fortune has doubled, ac-

Bill Gates' software empire has

#### Harding's wife agrees £25m for mistress

The mistress of soccer tycoon Matthew Harding will get a payout of £25m after his widow respected her late husband's last wishes.

Mr Harding, who died in a helicopter crash last October, left £200m in his will, asked that his widow, his mistress and his five children should all be properly

Ruth Harding and her four children are expected to get at least 250m which will give an expected annual income of £2m. But Mrs Harding agreed that Vicky Jaramillo (right), who has a two-year-old daughter, Elia, from a five-year relationship with Mr Harding, was entitled to around £25m in a trust

"Matthew's wishes were for Ruth, Vicky and the children to be looked after, and Ruth has gone along with that," said Margaret Nugent one of the will's two executors. "It just shows what a kind and caring person she is. There are no arguments over the will as so many people predicted there would be.

Miss Jaramillo, a former waitress, met Mr Harding in 1991 and he left his marriage of more than 20 years to move in with her last

A friend of Mrs Harding's told the Sun newspaper: "She is not exactly a happy bunny about the whole business of Matthew and



Vicky. But all along she has insisted Vicky must be looked after

properly in the settlement." The amounts given to the two women are not fixed sums as a large part of the money is still tied up in shares and other investments - including stakes in Chelsea Village, the holding company for the football club, and Benfield, the insurance group which made his fortune. Before his death, Mr Harding, who was one of Britain's wealthiest men, had pledged £1m to the Labour Party. The investigation into the crash, in which Mr Harding died as he

travelled back to London from watching Cheisea's Coca-Cola Cup defeat at Bolton, is continuing. A report from the Department of Transport Air Accidents Investigation Branch is not expected for

Glenda Cooper next, with \$14.7bn.

#### Slim chances of making a lifetime marriage

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh, celebrating their golden wedding amiversary this year, may be a model of domestic felicity, but as their children have shown, marriage is on the wane.

More than one in four couples who tied the knot the same year

as the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh are celebrating their golden wedding anniversaries this year. Only one in 10 couples married in the 1990s is expected to make their 50th anniversary. More than 400,000 couples married in England and Wales in 1947, according to the Office for National Statistics. Fewer than

300,000 couples now marry each year.

Of those married in 1947, 10 per cent have divorced, while of those who marry in the 1990s, 10 per cent will divorce within the first five years, nearly 25 per cent by 10 years and 41 per cent by 50

Fifty years ago, more than 85 per cent of men and women were marrying for the first time. But in the 1990s, just seven out of 10 were martied for the first time.

were married for the first time.

In 1947 the most common age for women to marry was 21 (the Queen was 21) and for men it was 23 (the Duke of Edinburgh was 25). In the 1990s, couples tend to be older - 23 for women and 25 for men.

Glenda Cooper

#### ENVIRONMENT

#### Tourism threatens turtle population

Tourists jetting off in search of unspoilt beaches may be unwittingly playing a part in the demise of the turtle. The World Society for the Protection of Animals claims the turtles' habitats on tropical beaches are being destroyed by coastal development. The 10,000-to-one odds of hatchlings surviving into adulthood are being lengthened by the tourists' invasion of important nesting sites that are often situated on the beaches of the Mediterranean sites that hand destinations since he Caribbean. Other and popular long haul destinations, such as the Caribbean. Other threats posed by man include illegal egg poaching and hunting of

WSPA is calling on the tourist industry to operate turtle-friendly holidays and has sent copies of its Turtle Alert report to several thousand tour operators worldwide, with a recommendation the they follow the Code by taking measures such as ensuring new hotel completes are set back from the shoreline, using turtle-

friendly lighting, avoiding bathing the beach in artificial light, and sectioning off areas of beaches used most often by tarties, keeping them clear and closed at night during peak

nesting seasons. Jonathan Peacre, WSPA campaigns manager, said:
"WSPA is asking tour
operators to look hard at the damage that is being done and implement changes to save these unique creatures that have lived on earth for over 100 million years."



#### **HEALTH**

#### Bacteria may cause heart attacks

Scientists believe they have identified an infectious organism which may play an important part in causing heart attacks. Survivors who were treated with a course of antibiotics to clear the infection had a four-fold reduced risk of a second attack, according to a study. The finding will add to the growing evidence that infection is an additional risk factor for heart disease along with smoking, poor diet, lack of exercise and family history. Heart disease rates in Britain have been falling for the last 25 years, despite little change

in the national diet, and some scientists have speculated that only an infectious agent could explain the rise and fall of the "epidemic" Researchers at St George's Hospital Medical School, London, tested the blood of 213 survivors for signs of infection with Chlamydia pneumoniae, a common cause of chest infections and believed to be present in up to half the population.

The survivors were followed for 18 months and those with the highest level of infection had up to four times the risk of further attacks or problems requiring bypass surgery or other treatment.

However, when members of this group were treated with antibiotics , their increased risk was virtually eliminated. Jeremy Laurance

#### NATURE

#### Birds of prey illegally killed

Each week birds of prey are illegally killed by poisoning, shooting, trapping or nest destruction, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds says, in a report published today.

Poisoning incidents have risen slightly, and the society concluded that a Government-led campaign against using

poisoned bait had failed. One victim was white-tailed eagle, of which less than 12 pairs exist in Britain.

In 1996 there were 96 confirmed incidents of all kinds of fatal persecution, compared with 108 the year before, and 97 in 1994. Poisoning and shooting accounted for the great majority of the deaths and the incidents were distributed across Britain.

of the deaths and the incidents were distributed across forman.

Alphachloralose, a rodenticide, was the most often used poison, with carcasses, usually rabbit, put out as bait. Most of the victims were buzzards, one of the most common raptors.

Some gamekeepers target birds of prey because they see them as a threat to game birds, while others are killed accidentally by farmers and landowners trying to kill pests such as crows and foxes. However, the RSPB says these detected killings are only a small proportion of the total.

Nicholas Schoon





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# When a son breaks the news he is gay

## Shocked: he was so popular with girls

#### THE MOTHER'S STORY

Reports by Michael Streeter

Ann Marie Blakey was shocked when her 16-year-old son Peter walked into the shop where she was working and "blurted

out" that he was gay.
"I had never suspected he might be, he was always very popular with the girls, "said Mrs Blakey, who works in a fruit and vegetable store in Consett, Co Durham. "He just shouted it out in front of everyone. I told him I couldn't get my head around it at work, that I'd talk to him that evening. I think he thought I was going to be angry

After a night of tears and talking, the family began to come to terms with their only child's amouncement. Mrs Blakey, 39, now looks at the arguments for lowering the age of consent for gay sex in relation to Peter's experiences, and unreservedly backs the call for equality.

"It was only later that I realised what Peter had been through at school, on his own," she said. "He told me other boys had a go at him, but I never knew. "I think he has handled it very well and

it shows he was mature enough. I'm very proud of him." She added: "I can't believe it's right that a 16-year-old is not old enough to have a relationship with another man but is old

enough to get a girl pregnant and run off and leave the child. She said she had never suspected that Peter was gay until his announcement, and that he seemed to have many girlfriends when he was younger. "Obviously, looking back they were not that kind of girlfriend."

Many other young people who come out are less fortunate in the reaction of their parents, and Mrs Blakey has a message for such families. "Please do not throw your children out - keep the family together. Let them express their feelings, but remember they are still your children."

Elsewhere in the north-east, Pat Atthey knows just how badly parents can react to the news their children are gay.

She set up a support group for parents of gay and lesbian children after being ashamed at her own reaction to the discovery her youngest son, Rob, was gay. "I just had



'Ann Marie Blakey: 'Peter has handled it very well .... I'm very proud of him'

stereotypes in my mind, like the John In-man character in [the television comedy]. Are You Being Served? I thought that my normal young son - the youngest and my baby was going to change in some way.

"I didn't realise that Rob did not choose to be gay - it chose him." Mrs Atthey said some parents felt "dis-

gusted and alienated" when offspring broke the news, though most of these were reconciled within a few months. "Parents, especially mothers, tend to want to blame something or someone. Often a mother will say, what have I done wrong, or differently from before? But everything falls into place if you accept that people don't choose it."

## A cry for help: but they took it well

#### THE SON'S STORY

Care worker Peter Blakey, now just 18, recalls with relief how his mother and father

accepted the revelation that he was gay. Speaking from his family home in Consett, Co Durham, Peter described the anguish he went through before revealing his true sexual orientation not long after his sixteenth birthday.

"It took me about a month to pluck up the courage to tell them.

"I told people at college straightaway when I went there in the September, but it was October before I told my mother. I never wanted to tell my dad because I thought it would finish everything, that it would end things between us.

"I went to see my mum at work during my lunch break and I just blurted it out. It was just like a cry for help on my part.

"I had no idea they would take it so well.
"I knew that for them it would mean no grandchildren, no weddings, no daughterin-law and all that.

"Well, I suppose I thought mum would be all right about it, but not as good as she's been. Since then they've both been great." Peter was pleasantly surprised how his straight friends at college - mostly female

had accepted his news. They seemed fine about it, they reacted as if they had always known. They talk about it quite openly."

However, one male friend in their group reacted differently. "We never told him about it directly, he just knew about it. He moved away from us."

Peter now supports the current move towards lowering the age of consent, even though he says some older men are particularly attracted to younger boys. "I think I can understand some of the concerns. I have been to places in Newcastle and Manchester and some of the older guys prefer the younger ones.

"But I'd known I was gay since about 13 or 14. The hardest thing, in fact, is coming out and telling people, not knowing your own mind," he said.

"Some guys around 16 or 17 are starting to experience what's going on, to see what it's like. I don't see any problem with that." He takes a philosophical approach towards



Peter Blakey; No idea his parents 'would take it so well' Photographs: Stuart Outterside

big deal. It's just the way I am, and it is sim-ply a question of coming to terms with it." Despite Peter's mostly positive experiences, a significant proportion of gay and lesbian youths - one-in-10 according to a 1980s survey - are forced to leave home because of their parents' reaction. Peter

Rage!", says a new phenomenon is that many gays and lesbians are coming out younger than ever, between 13 to 15 when sex would still be illegal under the likely changes in the law.

"No one's really picked up on this so far.

These groups are still in danger of being his sexuality. As far as I'm concerned it's no Tatchell, of the campaign group "Out-criminalised," he said.

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The Church of England last night con-fronted the issue of homosexual priests for the first time in a decade, in a highly charged General Synod debate that exposed the gulf

Both liberal and traditionalist speakers at the meeting in York warned that the issue could provoke a mass exodus from the George Carey, poured cold water on gay Christians' hopes for a more liberal ap-

proach, saying he did not "share the assumption that it is only a matter of time that homosexual acts are not forbidden by sumption that it is only a matter of time before the Church will change its mind".

The debate was prompted by a motion tabled by the Archdeacon of Wandsworth. the Ven David Gerrard, asking Synod to acknowledge that a document issued by bishops in 1991 was "not the last word on the subject". The document stated that while practising gays could take their place church. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr as lay members of the church, they were not welcome among the ranks of clergy.

the Bible, denounced the church as hostile to gay Christians. He said that his evangelical opponents had made two attempts to "out" him. "In the first attempt, three people who are now diocesan bishops in this room were silent partners," he said. "The church is a place of danger for gay people. That is why

we are leaving in droves .. "So often the church has failed to lead in preventing or rectifying injustice. Indeed, In a moving speech, the Rev Michael some of our past and present teaching may

of gay people, however much we may deplore such actions."

Mr Gerrard asked delegates: "Is mere condemnation of homophobia sufficient while homosexuals, both lay and clergy, have often only been accepted in our churches if they have been prepared to re-main invisible and inaudible?

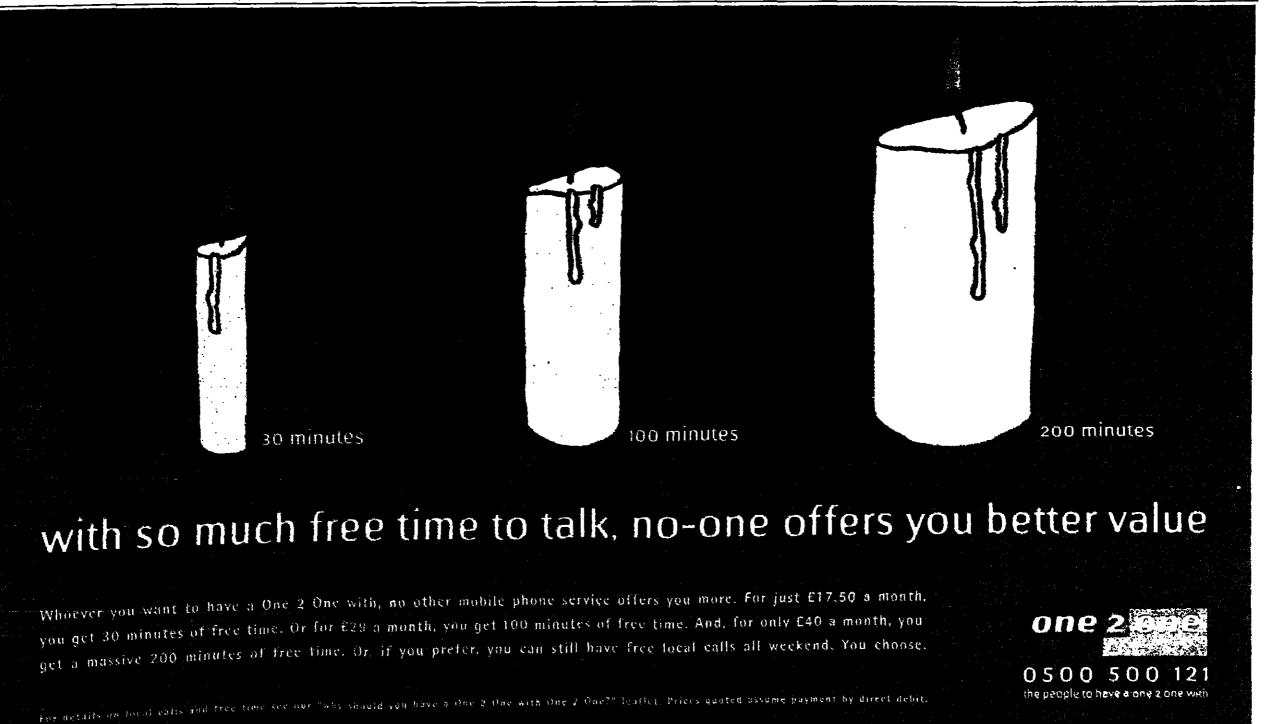
The Rev Malcolm Johnson, from London, added: "I find it obscene that happily marned heterosexual bishops condemn their gay

give some twisted and prejudiced people clergy to celibacy. I believe we need an eth-justification for their violent persecutions ic for homosexuals other than 'stop it'."

In response, Canon Max Wigley, from Bradford, said any modification of the church's stance would be damaging. He said: "If ever legislation is passed by this Synod which allows for practising homosexuals to be ordained, I am afraid that the number of clergy and lay people who will leave the Church of England will make the numbers who left over the ordination of women look in my view cannot be on a par with mar-infinitesimal." He was backed by Alison Ruoff, a lay delegate from Hertfordshire, who

said the Scriptures made clear that homosexual acts were unnatural and therefore wrong. "Homosexuals are not born as such;

the choice to go on sinning is theirs," she said. Dr Carey pleased hardliners by expressing uncompromising opposition to homosexual acts. "I do not find any justification, from the Bible or the entire Christian tradition, for sexual activity outside marriage." he said. Thus same-sex relationships





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Tracie left the witness box and showed the jury how she still wore her ring

Tracie Andrews, the woman accused of the roadside murder of her fiancé, Lee Harvey, yes-terday described their violent and tempestuous relationship and the "road rage" race that led to his death.

Giving evidence for the first time in her 10-day trial, Miss Andrews repeated her original claim that Mr Harvey was killed by the passenger of a dark blue Ford Sierra after a high-speed race down country lanes.

Asked by defence counsel, Ronald Thwaites QC, whether she had killed Mr Harvey after a row, as the prosecution has alleged, Miss Andrews replied: "No, I did not."

During a day of high emotion, Miss Andrews, 28, of Alve-church, Worcestershire, told the jury at Birmingham Crown Court that her relationship with Mr Harvey, 25, was "very, very loving and stormy at times". She described a number of

occasions when Mr Harvey had been violent towards her and smashed doors, furniture and electrical goods at their home because he had been jealous when she had spoken to other men. He was also anxious - without foundation that she might return to Andrew Tilston, the father of her six-year-old daughter, Karla, Miss Andrews said.

As a result, their relationship was almost permanently in a state of flux, with the couple separating and re-uniting on numerous occasions. Miss Andrews told the court that after one of Mr Harvey's violent rages, she had aborted the baby she was carrying, telling him she had suffered a miscarriage.

Despite the traumas of their relationship, Miss Andrews, a former model of Alvechurch. Worcestershire, told the court that she loved Mr Harvey and tried to commit suicide two days after his murder because she could not bear to live without him. She was allowed to leave the witness box to show the jury that she still wore her engage-

Describing the events that led to Mr Harvey's death, Miss Andrews repeated the account shortly after the killing. The couple had been for a drink at the Maribrook public house in

 $\langle \mathbf{r} \rangle$ 



Tracie Andrews arriving for trial yesterday. She told the court she had an abortion after one of Lee Harvey's 'rages'

Bromsgrove on Sunday 1 December and were "on good terms" travelling home when Mr Harvey began swearing at another driver after an encounter with another car near the M42 roundabout.

When the car came up at the side of us. Lee was doing gestures with his hand, and I saw the passenger of the car also other car pass at the top of Coopers Hill, but it slowed

down and blocked the middle of the road. Miss Andrews said that first the driver of the Sierra and Mr Harvey got out and shouted at one another, prodding with their fingers, but the other driver returned to his car.

However, the passenger, "a big man with staring eyes", got out and approached Mr Harvey, calling him a "Paki basshe gave at a press conference making gestures," said Miss tard". The court had heard Andrews. Mr Harvey let the earlier that Mr Harvey had a swarthy complexion.

"I saw the passenger strike

many times, but I would say it was more than once," said Miss Andrews. "Lee fell down on to the floor and that's when I got out of the car ... Lee was lying down on the floor. Lying flat, he had his top half up a bit. I would say that he was supporting himself on his elbows as though he was lying on the beach. Al that time the passenger was bent or

crouched down by Lee." She said she did not see any weapon in the darkness and she

denied that she had been carrying a weapon. When she approached the man, he called her a "slut" and punched her in the eye. Meanwhile, the driver was shouting "Come on, Jez,

Miss Andrews said she heard Mr Harvey make a gurgling noise and she covered him with her coat and rested his head.

"I can honestly say I really did not know what had happened to Lee," she said. "I knew he was in a had way, but it all just

Photograph: David Jones/PA

happened to quickly. I can't recall everything that happened. It's as though it was in a dream. "I can remember saying 'Why can't I cry? And I can remember saying 'Twenty-five minutes ago we were in the pub"."

Under cross examination from David Crigman QC, prosecuting, Miss Andrews denied she had changed the route of the mad rage chase because noone had reported seeing the

"phantom" Sierra.

## Speaker enters battle for Radio 4

Media Correspondent

Betty Boothroyd, Speaker of the Commons, yesterday added her voice to the growing band of public figures lining up against James Boyle, controller of Ra-dio 4, and his planned changes to Middle England's favourite radio station.

Miss Boothroyd told Labour MP David Winnick, who raised a point of order about planned changes to Yesterday in Parliament, that she would make representations to the BBC on behalf of the House. She said the concern expressed by members in all parts of the House was "shared by millions of people outside and I certainly share it myself".

She told Mr Winnick: "May suggest that you may like to refer this matter to the Select Committee on National Hertage for them to have a look at. In knowing the views of this House, I will certainly make representations on behalf of the House to the BBC myself."

Reports at the weekend sugested that Mr Boyle plans to incorporate Yesterday in Parliament into the Today programme as a panel discussion slot. Other MPs lined up to criti-

cise Mr Boyle's plans - which have yet to be made official and an early-day motion condemning any changes to the programme has already attracted 60 MPs' signatures. Gerald Kaufman, likely to be reappointed chairman of the National Heritage Select Committee, has also added his voice to the

The BBC acknowledges that Mr Boyle is taking on one of the most vocal and easily upset constituencies in the country.

a constituency," said a BBC in sider yesterday, "From Parliament, to the National Farmers Union upset about Farming Today, to disabled lobbyists worried about Does he Take Sugar we are going to get it in the neek from all over

Mr Boyle said earlier this year that he would not be "held hostage" by vested interests. However, it is apparent that he faces opposition from both inside and outside the BBC.

As soon as he made a presentation of his plans to senior executives last week they were leaked to weekend newspapers. Commentators such as Sir Roy Strong, former director of the Victoria & Albert museum and Lord St John of Fawsley, in his capacity as a former arts minister, were immediately rolled out to condemn the proposals. When a listener offered on Feedback in 1994 to form a campaign to prevent Radio 4 long wave being turned over to an all-news service, 12,000 listeners immediately wrote offering to join.

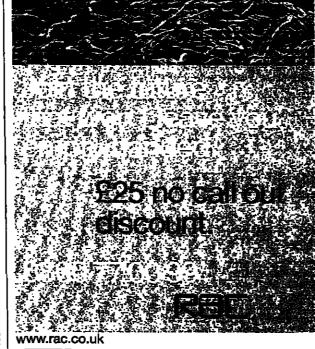
This compoign has metamorphosed into Radio 4 Watch. which BBC insiders dismiss as "self-appointed lunatic fringe". It takes more seriously the lobbying group Voice of the Listener and Viewer, which

includes John Tusa and Sir David Puttnam as patrons. To offset protest from listeners Mr Boyle, armed with a team of researchers, addressed the VLV in April about the thinking behind his programme

This prompted Jocelyn Hay chairman of the Voice of the Listener and Viewer, to say that "programmes could not be set in stone" and warn only that changes needed to be made

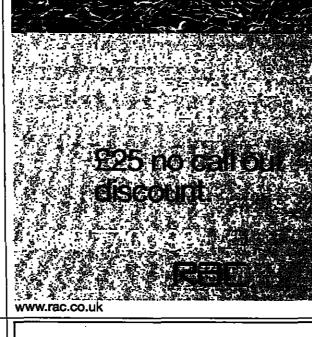
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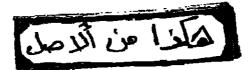
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## Scottish MPs face boundaries review

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

A review of parliamentary seats in Scotland could be ordered by the Government to answer criticism that the Scots will be over-represented at Westminster once they have their own

A senior Cabinet source said that a review of parliamentary boundaries by the Boundary Commission could be called to ment and a fresh inquiry would answer the charge by critics of risk reopening some old sores. Scottish devolution, who include some Labour MPs.

The source said it was not necessary to cut the number of Scottish MPs at Westminster, but a review would be certain to raise questions about the numbers with constituencies north of the border. A review of the Westminster seats was carried out in the last ParliaMinisters denied that the splits in the Cabinet committee

on Scottish and Welsh devolution were as poisonous as some reports suggested, but the ques-tion of the powers for the Scottish Parliament is unlikely to be settled by the White Paper to be published next week.

The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, who led the so-called

English lobby against pressure to give the Scottish Parliament separate powers from the Westminster Parliament, hinted at the weekend that his group had won the argument.

Mr Straw, who is backed by Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, and Jack Cunningham, the Minister of Agriculture, said the White Paper would show that the integrity of the Union had been preserved.

ment its own power to decide on legal curbs in Scotland over abortion. It was feared this would lead to a cross-border traffic in women seeking abortion.

But there will be significant powers for the Scottish Parliament, including the right to express a view on the appointment of broadcasting bodies in Scotland. Donald Dewar, Secre-

The ministerial group ruled out giving the Scottish Parliasome of the judgements made by the ministerial team would be controversial. Yesterday he reassured businessmen that the Government's plans for devolution and a Scottish partiament

would bring them benefits.
Addressing 90 business leaders at a breakfast meeting in Glasgow, Mr Dewar pledged: With the Scottish Parliament there will be new opportunities

and Scottish businesses will rise to that challenge. It will take ad-must demonstrate real busivantage of the new opportunities offered by our clearer Scottish identity. And above all it will take advantage of the new opportunities to shape and influence pol-icy by having a government closer to the Scottish people, and

closer to Scottish businesses." Andrew Cubie, chairman of CBI Scotland - which has been sceptical of devolution - said:

ness benefits and opportunities rather than create additional costs and bureaucracy."

Meanwhile, the Scottish National Party's leader. Alex Salmond, protested at reported plans by the Government to move the proposed Scottish Parliament to Edinburgh City Chambers instead of the Royal High School in the city.

#### Slaughter hopes to become Labour's giant killer

Louise Jury

New Labour, new candidate. At the official launch of the Uxbridge by-election campaign yesterday the party introduced Andy Slaughter, who will fight the seat in place of the man who slashed a giant Tory majority to 724 votes in May.

David Williams, a local lecturer, fought the now marginal seat in west London at the general election. He has made clear his unhappiness that Labour's National Executive Committee did not even shortlist him this time round.

But as Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, stepped out alongside the new candidate in the constituency yesterday, the party was emphasising Mr Slaughter's "excellent" qualifications for the vacancy created by the death of the Tory Sir Michael Shersby. And Mr Brown was plugging all of his 10-week track record in office as a powerful vote-winner for the 36year-old barrister at the poll on 31 July.

The Chancellor cited the new windfall tax spending on education and health, the cut in VAT on fuel and action for small businesses as reasons for end-



Major concern: Members of the Uxbridge Conservative Club mulling over the issues as the by-election campaign kicked off yesterday

we're going to put to the peo-

ing 27 years of Conservative representation in the prosperous constituency. Speaking in the heart of small business - Zeus Metal Fabrications, which em-

ploy six people making metal machinery in Uxbridge - Mr Brown said they were taking nothing for granted. "We know that this is an uphill fight. But

ple of Uxbridge our record of the last two months." Mr Slaughter said: "I am delighted to have been selected by Uxbridge Labour party members to fight this seat on behalf

> Playing down tales of local dissatisfaction at his candidature, Mr Slaughter emphasised his experience in modernising Hammersmith and Fulham council in west London, where he is leader. "I have helped to improve people's quality of life.
> I can do the same in Uxbridge."

> He dismissed the Liberal Democrat candidate, Keith Kerr, a British Airways manager

at Heathrow, as out of the run-And he said: "The Conserv-

atives under new leader William Hague are as much of a shambles as they ever were under John Major." But Lord Parkinty chairman, gleefully picked on the selection row, claiming the decision to adopt Mr Slaughter demonstrated the "breathless arrogance" of Labour in government. He contrasted the Labour candidate with the Conservatives' John Randall, 42, the owner of a well-known Uxbridge department store founded by his great grandfa-ther, Philip, in 1891.

"Labour had to show their

candidate where Uxbridge was on the map. He has been parachuted in," Lord Parkinson said. The row follows speculation that Labour will introduce a list of approved candidates for general elections, subjecting lection procedures used in by-Constituencies arrange their own shortlists for general elections but an NEC

panel does so for by-elections. The Conservatives also have plans under way to change adoption procedures and have scrapped their previous list of approved candidates. However, Lord Parkinson said any selection changes introduced by the

Photograph: David Rose

roughshod" over local wishes. The by-election is an early opularity test for both the Labour government and Mr Hague. Some observers were surprised that the Conservatives chose Mr Randall rather than profile former MPs anxious to resume a career in the Commons. But the local association instead chose to rely on the appeal of a local man whose values, like his department store, are described as "old-fash-

The Liberal Democrats' campaign in Uxbridge was launched yesterday by Nick Harvey MP. the party's chairman of cam-

#### Mowlam lays out terms for talks

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

Senior Government officials have given Sinn Fein a definitive reply on the terms for talks after its leaders initiated a number of contacts with the Northern Ireland Office, it emerged

Mo Mowlam, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said: "It's not negotiations. I'm not talking to them. But if they want clarification then it will happen.

I'm not hiding anything."
Formal talks between Sim
Fein and the Government were broken off following the murder last month of two policemen in Lurgan, Co Armagh. But Sinn Fein has since made

a number of phone calls, and wrote two letters to the Northem Ireland Office, on 20 June and 2 July, and a reply was sent on 9 July to the questions it had raised.

Speaking on Radio Ulster's Talkback programme, Ms Mowlam said: "What's important is that Sinn Fein cannot give any excuse that we have not clar-

ified our position."
With multi-party talks on the future of Northern Ireland resuming today, the Ulster Unionists are putting strong pressure on Ms Mowlam to tighten the conditions for Sinn

Fein participation. Full-scale political talks are scheduled to start in September, and the Government has said that any IRA ceasefire must hold for at least six weeks before Sinn genuine "by word and deed". otherwise, the process will go ahead without them.

"The talks will start on Sentember 15, without them if there is no ceasefire," Ms

Mowlam said yesterday.

David Trimble, the leader of the Ulster Unionists, said Ms Mowlam was subject to "wishful thinking", if she thought there could be a new and unequivocal IRA ceasefire.



## Heritage department is consigned to history

David Lister Arts News Editor

Chris Smith vesterday ceased to be the Heritage Secretary and became the first Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

The Government decided to re-name the Department of National Heritage, Mr Smith said, as "the old name was backward-looking and did not do justice to the range of work

The new name does not do full justice either, as tourism also falls within Mr Smith's portfolio. But a spokesman at the De-partment for Culture, Media and Sport said yesterday that culture brings in tourists, so tourism came under culture. It was also decided to transfer responsibility for the music industries from the Depart-ment for Trade and Industry to

Mr Smith said the depart-

ment would be forward-looking and "promote everything from Beefeaters to Britpop" He also announced an inter-departmental Creative Industries Taskforce, which will aim

to improve economic performance in this area. Its membership will include Virgin chief Richard Branson; film producer Sir David Puttnam; the founder of Oasis's record label Creation Records. Alan McGee: designer Paul Smith; chief executive and UK chairman of publishers Random

Spectrum Strategy Consultants, Mr Smith said the taskforce would co-ordinate the activities of various Whitehall departments, boost wealth generation and employment in the industries concerned and increase "creative

activity and excellence". He added: "The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is a department for the future. It is about creativity, innovation and excitement. It is a department concerned with many of the things that affect people's day-to-day lives - like sport, television, films and the lottery-the things we talk about at work or at leisure.

'It is all about the widest pos-House, Gail Rebuck; Eric Salasible access - for the many not ma, director of media advisers

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Opera house farewell as inquest begins

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

The Royal Opera House is expected to be investigated by the Commons select committee on culture following controversy over its failure to widen its audience to ordinary people.

A royal gala performance last night at the Covent Garden opera house was attended by the Prince of Wales and Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for the newly renamed Department for Culture, Media and Sport, marking the closure of the historic 138-year-old build-ing for its £214m redevelop-

Gerald Kaufman, the Labour chairman of the cross-party Commons select committee which shadows Mr Smith's department, has told friends that he wants to make an inquiry into the Royal Opera House and its financing a top priority for his committee, which is meeting later this week to agree its agenda for the forthcoming session of Parliament.

The committee is expected to investigate the large sums of public money going into the Royal Opera House, including a £78.5m lottery grant towards the rebuilding project; the availability of tickets for the general public at realistic prices; and the management of the opera house, which was subjected to an unflattering fly-on-the-wall television doc-

The second secon

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umentary.
Mr Smith privately believes dinary people to hear and see opera, either by providing more cheap tickets and going out to capture a wider audience.

The Royal Opera House



Gerald Kaufman: Will press for select committee inquiry

Mr Smith and senior colleagues believe too few are offered at prices most people can afford. making the nation's main opera venue an élitist attraction, in spite of the growing public awareness for opera, following the success of the concerts by the Three Tenors

The use of a large screen in the square at Covent Garden to broadcast live concerts enabled the public to share in performances. Mr Smith would like to see the number of broadcast performances increased to make them more accessible to the public.
Under pressure from the

Government to become "the people's opera house", Covent Garden shared its farewell gala with millions of BBC2 viewers that the Royal Opera House has and a huge crowd who saw it not done enough to allow ornearby piazza outside St Paul's Church

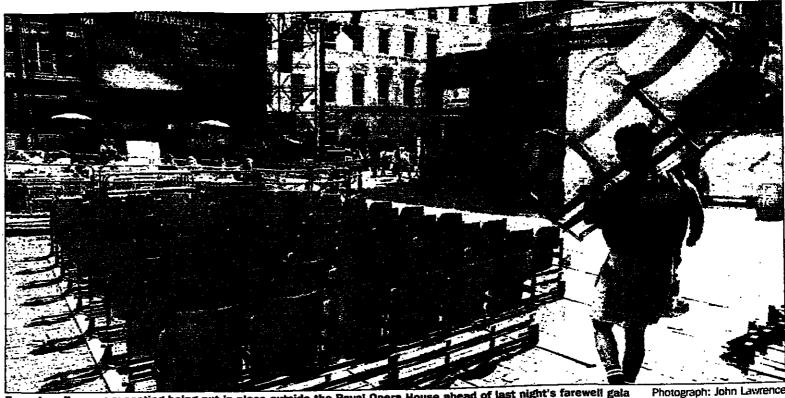
The Royal Opera House is due to reopen in December 1999 in time for the millennium does provide cheap tickets, but celebrations. The imposing fa-

cade on Bow Street will be ex-tended and enhanced with the transformation of the wrought iron Floral Hall used as a scenery store since a 1950s fire into a huge fover space with bar

and dining areas. Backstage areas are being completely rebuilt with a massive fly tower to house scenery which will be lowered and moved by new machinery, replacing equipment dating from 1858 and electrics from 1901. A 450-seat studio theatre will stage small-scale opera and ballet.

During the closure the Royal Opera and Ballet companies will perform at a variety of theatres and halls. In November they stage a spectacular production of Verdi's Otello at the Royal Albert Hall. Other London venues will be the Barbican Theatre and Concert Hall. Royal Festival Hall and Shaftesbury Theatre. They will also tour to Aldeburgh, King's Lynn and Birmingham.
The Royal Opera flies to

New York later this month to stage Palestrina at the Metropolitan Opera House.



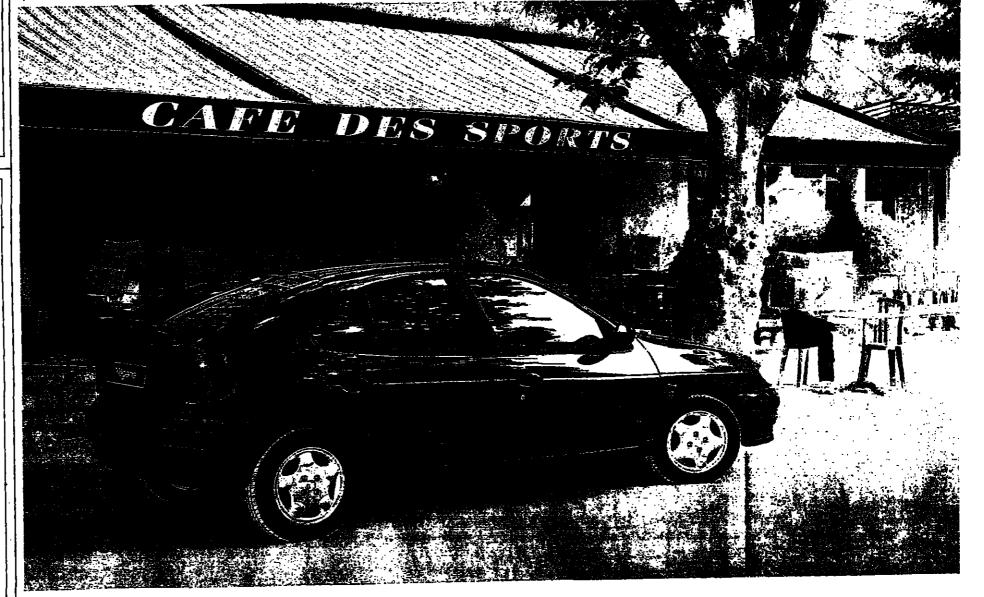
Free view: Temporary seating being put in place outside the Royal Opera House ahead of last night's farewell gala



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#### DAILY POEM

On the Subject of Doctors

By James Tate

I like to see doctors cough. What kind of human being would grab all your money just when you're down?
I'm not saying they enjoy this:
"Sorry, Mr. Rodriguez, that's it,
no hope! You might as well. hand over your wallet." Hell no, they d rather be playing golf and swapping jokes about our feet.

Some of them smoke marijuana turpitude is famous: who gets to see most sex organs in the world? Not poets. With the hours they keep they need drugs more than anyone. Germ city, there's no hope looking down those fire-engine throats. They're bound to get sick themselves sometime; and I happen to be there myself in a high fever taking my plastic medicine seriously with the doctors, who are dying.

This second work from James Tate's Pulitzer Prize-winning Selected Poems (Carcanet, £9.95) comes from Viper Jazz, a volume that first appeared in 1976.

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# Branson joins war against tobacco

Britain's favourite entrepreneur yesterday pledged to put the weight of his financial empire behind the Government's drive to end tobacco sponsorship of sport.

Richard Branson, chairman of Virgin, said it was time to take on the tobacco barons and call the bluff of those who threatened an end to Formula One motor racing in the United Kingdom if tobacco money were withdrawn.

Mr Branson, appearing on a platform with Tessa Jowell, Minister for Public Health, at a government-organised antismoking summit, said Virgin would sponsor Indy motor rac-ing in Britain as a substitute for the Grand Prix, if that were

moved to another country.

Indy motor racing, which originated in the United States, involves racing round a banked oval track and is cheaper to put on than Formula One. Mr Branson added that Virgin companies would also be happy to step in with offers of sponsorship for other threatened sports such as cricket and snooker.

I am absolutely convinced it is a bluff and the chances of it happening are small, but it is important the tobacco companies can't frighten the public into thinking they will lose their favourite sports," he said.

Mr Branson's remarks caught the mood of the meeting, attended by five ministers from three government departments and bolstered by assorted celebrities, who had come to hear anti-smoking experts from around the world before framing new proposals for legislation.

As a succession of speakers warmly congratulated the Government on its initiative, Ms Jowell declared: "I believe that when the histories of public health are written, what we start today will be recognised as the turning point in smoking in this country. From today, smok-

ing starts to be history."

Ms Jowell said the aim was "fundamentally to change the position of tobacco in the public consciousness". Tobacco advertising and sponsorship tobacco will rise by 5 per cent in real terms annually (compared with 3 per cent under the

previous government).

A White Paper to be published by the end of the year will also set out ministers' thinking on raising the minimum age for buying cigarettes from 16 to 18, and introducing new restrictions on smoking in public places. give up smoking, and prevent them taking it up will also be included.

Mr Branson, who is a trustee of the pressure group, Parents against Tobacco, called for a 3p a packet surcharge on cigarettes to provide a £120m antismoking fund to persuade the public of the health dangers.

Padraig Flynn, the European commissioner for employment and social affairs, said concerted action across Europe was essential to combat the power of the tobacco companies. Dr Sandy Macara, chairman of the British Medical Association. urged all those opposed to the tobacco industry to "join forces in a combined crusade against the corporate criminals".

The only group not repre-sented at the meeting, the tobacco manufacturers, responded sourly to Mr Branson's offer. A spokesman said: "He is putting his foot in a world about which he knows nothing. Indy racing ... has nothing like the glamour of Formula One."

Motor racing drew 40 per cent of its sponsorship income from the tobacco industry, compared with 3 per cent for other sports, and there was a serious danger that the organisers of the British Grand Prix would take the event elsewhere if this source of funds were cut off. "With a potential worldwide TV audience of 900 million it doesn't matter if they are tearing round corners at Silverstone or in Taipei," he said. ■ Pregnant women who smoke more than 10 cigarettes a day risk having unruly, anti-social sons who may grow into criminals, researchers said. The claim arises from a study of the records of 177 boys aged seven to 12 who



Tourists plumb the depths in Lakeland

It wasn't exactly Trident, but the 25-tonne Mergo submarine impressed most who watched as it was swung by crane into England's longest lake.

The tourist submarine was dropped into Lake Windermere in Cumbria where it will cruise the depths looking for wrecks as well as studying marine life.

The submarine, aptly named the Windermere, carries 10 passengers, and is the first to operate on the lake.

marina, Les Micklethwaite. said: "The locals will have been expecting something like the Tri-dent, which is built across the way at Barrow. This will seem like a duck to them.

"But we think it will stir a lot of interest and it's a welcome

we have here.

"The only other unusual craft we've had on the water was a Sunderland flying boat that stayed for one summer season." The owners of the craft, Paul and Jane Whitfield, have suc-

cessfully operated a submarine on Loch Ness. Mrs Whitfield said of the

venture: "I hope we will be here permanently. We are charr, trout, pike, stickleback, going to spend a week explora couple of suitable sites from which to dive. We will ferry The manager of the Lakeside passengers from the lakeside

out to the submarine. "We'll be looking for wrecks and exploring areas that are little-known and in many cases

never seen before. "We think it will work very well, complementing the new aquatarium [marine-life centre] and scientific instruments, help

addition to the steam cruisers built here, and the steamers which cruise on the surface."

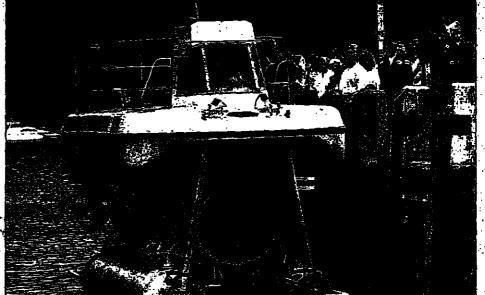
The submarine carries passengers and a pilot to a depth of almost 300 feet. It cruises at half a knot but can reach three knots when pressed. A single tour is likely to last an hour.

Mrs Whitfield added that marine life in Windermere was

Fish life includes arctic perch and eels. And there have the years concerning boat wrecks and sunken aircraft.

"The waters may be deep and dark but they will present little difficulty because our submarine is designed to operate at depths of 300 feet and is fitted with powerful underwater lights and large view ports.

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The submarine will compete called "Timnel With A View" at

the aquatarium. It crosses the lake, allowing people to stroll among the boulders and pools. minnows and perch. Visitors will encounter stickleback, carp,

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## chools hit reading standard target

Judith Judd Education Editor

Reading standards among eight-year-olds in Birmingham, one of the local authority models for the Government's literacy drive, have risen during the last two years.

The city, whose chief educa-tion officer is Professor Tim Brighouse, has pioneered school targets and a series of initiatives to spread effective teaching methods. School targets and the spread of good practice are at the heart of the Government's strategy for raising standards disclosed in a White Paper published last week.

In a report to Birmingham's education sub-committee, Professor Brighouse, who is vice-chairman of the Government's new standards task force, points to an improvement in eightyear-olds reading performance between spring 1995 and this year. However, one in eight city children still has a reading age two or more years below his or

her chronological age. Nearly 2,500 children in 50 representative city primary schools were set tests designed by the National Foundation for Educational Research and

marked by their teachers. The children's raw scores were compared with the scores achieved by children of the same age nationally and then converted into standardised scores. A standard score of 100

call us now,

represents the national average. with the results being sent to all In 1995, the average score by spring this year, it was 97.

The report says: "Impor-tantly, most of the improvement has been in reducing the pro-portion of children in the lowst reading bands."

Two years ago, the city introduced a "primary guarantee" under which schools set their own targets in return for support and funding from the lo-

cal authority.
There was also "a year of reading" during which schools were encouraged to focus on literacy. Teachers have been offered extra training, and a survey of teaching methods was carried out earlier this year primary schools. Standards have improved for

all children, including those from ethnic minorities and those on free school meals. "However, differences still re-main with children with first languages other than English and children from disadvantaged backgrounds tending to perform

Children who had received nursery education did better

than those who had not. The report says the results must be treated with caution because this is the first time reading standards in the city have been compared in this way.

National research published recently by the National Foun-

dation for Education Research suggests that reading standards have remained much the same for the last 50 years. There was a slight drop in the late Eighties before they returned to

their previous level. Professor Brighouse said he was delighted with the results which reflected schools' effects. "However, we are not being completent. We realise that we are still below the national average and there is work to be done. Targets are being set by schools for the year 2000 mean

effort to continue this impress ment in reading standards.

Ministers have set a targetter 80 per cent of 11-year-olds to reach the expected standard in

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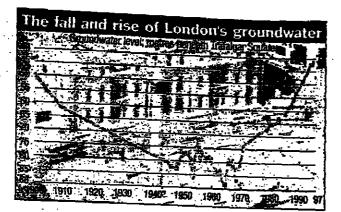
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## All is not well in deepest London as the waters rise ever upward

Nicholas Schoon Environment Correspondent

Companies worried about London's rising groundwater are about to ask the Government to start serious planning on how to pump large quantities out of the city.

Rain or shine, drought or flood, the water table beneath London has been rising for 30 years - by up to three metres a year. It already poses a threat to the London Underground, and in the next century it could start to move entire buildings.

The reason is that people take far less water from the aquifer beneath the centre of the capital than they used to. The water table is returning towards its original, natural level much nearer

A committee chaired by London Underground has been monitoring and planning research into the threat for four years. It includes representatives of property and insurance associations, Thames Water and British Telecom, which has deep-level cable

ducts at risk. Mike Gellatley, infrastructure systems engineer for London Underground, said the group was poised to send a position statement to ministers. We think the time has come for a single pumping strategy headed by one accountable body, perhaps the Environment Agency," About 30 million litres a day would have to be removed.

The Tube network, first in the firing line, has had to put increasing effort into monitoring the inflow of water and pumping it from its tunnels. Worst affected is the southern end of the Northern Line towards Tooting Bec, where the water table has almost reached the surface.

Water tables are rising under several other large European cities too. including Birmingham.

As the water rises it saturates the clay sitting on top of the chalk aquifer. That may alter the way in which it supports large buildings constructed on top of piles sunk deep into the ground.

Vinn Robinson, principal hydroge-ologist with the Thames region of the Government's Environment Agency, advocates a detailed study to see how buildings in one small area of central London might be affected. "At this stage, I don't think many buildings are likely to settle," he said

"But it would only take damage to a few to justify the expense of a pumping strategy to stop the groundwater rising further." Thames Water will come under pressure to use this pumped out wa-

ening water shortfalls at the same time. not economically attractive. Exploiting the rising water would require several pumping stations, and extensive as laundries and breweries pumped treatment to make it drinkable, in huge quantities of water up from return for meeting only a tiny propor- the underlying rocks and it was End, with the water table tending more and more on piped supplies. I vaccine together in a test at the Na-



On the up: Adrian Bagnati of estate agents Hurford Salvi Carr peering into the well of a property in rell in central London. A sharp fall in the amount of water drawn from the capital's aquifer has led to a potentially hazardous rise in the water table (see table, above) Photograph: Philip Meech

ter for public supply, helping solve wors- tion of the capital's daily needs. But Mr Robinson conceded this was boreholes and wells in the square mile of the City of London alone. Manufacturers and businesses such

common for large office buildings There used to be hundreds of such as the Bank of England to have their own supply. The water table was as low as 90m below ground level in central London in the 1960s as a result.

to rise the further one moved out from the centre. In the outermost suburbs, it had only been drawn down a few metres. By the 1960s, however, the heavy water users had moved away and businesses and It was deepest below the West housing left in the centre relied

## Gulf War syndrome research stepped up

Christopher Bellam) Defence Correspondent

Government yesterday announced a 20-point plan to increase the practical help given to victims of Gulf War illness and a "new beginning" to finding out what had

happened to them. In the last six months the number of British servicemen and women reporting unexplained symptoms has

increased from 1,100 to 1,800. John Reid, the Armed Forces minister, told Parliament he was setting out a comprehensive strategy for dealing with veterans' concerns and finding out what caused the illness or illnesses. He remained convinced that although mistakes might have been made, they had arisen from the best motives. We question no one's motives," he said. "We took what measures we thought to be necessary to protect our troops."

He also said he supported the

British system of "no-fault compensation", paid as part of war pensions. which are given independently of any other service pensions. So far. 1.265 Gulf War veterans have applied for war pensions including 295 for symptoms arising from Gulf War illness. So far, 134 have been awarded to these applicants.
Gulf veterans welcomed yester-

day's announcement which met their demands for speeding up research, particularly into the vaccinations against biological warfare agents bubonic plague, anthrax and whooping cough - which many think may

be to blame. Yesterday's MoD statement said that in 1990 ~ before the Gulf War the Department of Health had reported that mice which had been given anthrax and whooping cough

tional Institute of Biological Stan dards and Control had suffered serious weight loss and illness. The data is no longer available, because the NIBSC destroyed it. Dr Reid has ordered a renewed investigation.

Tony Flint, who served in the Gulf and is now suffering from a form of glandular fever, emphysema, nerve damage and weight loss, said vesterday he thought the vaccines "were going to be the biggest culprit". He added: "The reason we've come to that conclusion is because the commander of the French forces refused to allow any of his men to have the vaccines or any of the anti-nerve agent tablets and none of them were

The Government said it will roughly double to £6.5m over the next three years its spending on investigations into the mysterious illness or illnesses, including £2.25m of research at the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment at Porton

Among the 20 points announced yesterday are new studies into the combinations of vaccines and antinerve gas tablets given to troops. The Government has also recalled the RAF doctor, Group Captain Bill Coker, who conducted the first investigations into Gulf War illness. Dr Reid said: "We will ensure Gulf

veterans have prompt access to medical advice and we will ensure the MoD make available to the public and, in particular, Gulf War veterans, any available information."

Among the new measures announced are studies into the effect of the simultaneous inoculations against anthrax and whooping cough given to all troops serving on land. The latter was administered as an "adjuvant" (an accelerating agent) to enhance the anthrax vaccine. .

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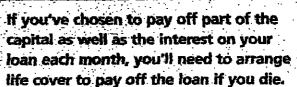




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# Israelis' outlawed weapon kills again

Robert Fisk Aadchit el-Qsair, Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon

Old Ahmed Sweidan had walked to collect his animal feed from the field on the edge of his village at dawn every morning for a month. Approaching 70, the Shia Muslim farmer would kneel in the stubble to pray, his green plastic water-jug - for ritual ablution - beside him, a stone in front to rest his head on as he

howed towards Mecca. Living more than a mile inside Israel's occupation zone, he had no reason to fear for his life. Five of his immediate family members were

serving in Israel's own proxy Lebanese militia, the "South Lebanon Army" (SLA). One of his

ons was a retired policeman. But on Saturday morning, as he walked into the field to pray, an Israeli Merkaya tank a mile-and-a-half away on the opposite hill fired seven shells at him, each round packed with thousands of tiny steel "flechette" arrows - 2 weapon banned under international law.

Ahmed Sweidan was torn to ieces. Yesterday, his dark, dried blood still stained the cornfield, his green plastic water-jug on its side in the stubble. And all across the field where he died lay hundreds of those

of them – an inch-and-a-half long, each with four fins, painted green and grey - lying in the piles of grain, em-bedded in solid rock, pinpricked into the two scarecrows that Ahmed Sweidan had erected to keep the birds from his animal feed. He had

died the death of a thousand cuts. A mistake, Israel said. Deeply regretted. But its tank crew were following "standing orders". If they saw suspicious movements in the hours of darkness, they were required to open fire. Cynically aware of Israel's frequent self-proclaimed "mistakes" - the Qana massacre, the attack on an ambulance-load of children and

came to their mind - the 300 villagers of Andchit el-Osair do not believe

The old man had been coming to the hill every morning at the same time for a month," one of them said yesterday. "The Israelis had watched him every day. There are three Israeli gun positions overlooking the hill. Then they said they didn't know who he was. Anyway, have you ever heard of a guerrilla marching towards the enemy on the top of a hill? They

The Israeli Merkava tank which killed Ahmed Sweidan is equipped

tiny steel steel darts. I found dozens women, and the slaughter of a fam-of them - an inch-and-a-half long, ily of nine, all in April of last year, its crew must have been able to see the old and fired its shells over a period of seven minutes. I found fragments of seven 120mm rounds, one of them coded with the figure 128-20-91/77, most of which carried Hebrew markings and appeared to have been

made in Israel. Nor was this the first time flechettes have been used on civilians in Lebanon. More than four years ago, the same banned shells were fired into civilians in the village of Nabatea el-Paougar, spraying the streets with the same tiny steel arrows and killing five men and

United Nations investigators were prowling the field outside Aadchit el-Osair for evidence yesterday. The village of Aadchit lies inside both the Israeli-occupied zone and the UN's area of operations - Finnish troops patrol the village but Sweidan was already in his grave when they reached the scene of the killing on Saturday. Islamic law stipulates speedy burial, especially for bodies with serious wounds. Ahmed Sweidan's head was almost severed from his body.

Nor does the old man's death suggest there is much life left in the South Lebanon ceasefire which was sup-

posed to have ended the bloodshed in the region after Israel's April 1996 hombardment. At least eight civilians have since been killed, seven this year. On Sunday, Hizboliah men

opened fire on an Israeli patrol inside Lebanon from a distance of only
30ft, killing Israeli Major Naday Milo. In revenge, Israeli guns fired shells into the village of Jarjoua, wounding 10 civilians. One of them, seven-year old Ali Mougallid, lost an eye. Israeli troops have meanwhile lost 12 men since the beginning of the year in escalating Hizbollah attacks; another 51 were wounded. All were hit in their occupation zone in-

## Arafat lobbies to join the Queen's club

Steve Crawshaw

The British empire has long since crumbled. Now that Hong Kong is gone, there are hardly any red dots left on the map - let alone the red swaths that covered so much of the globe 50 or 100 years ago. And yet, a long line of countries is now keen to declare a kind of loyalty to the Queen. The latest supplicant: Palestine.

Yasser Arafat, the terrorist-turned-statesman Palestinian leader, yesterday met Tony Blair, the Prime Minister. They discussed the Middle East, and the need to push the peace process forward.

Important stuff, certainly. Today, however, Mr Arafat will hold a potentially more fruitful meeting in London — with Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth. In his meeting, Mr Arafat will press Palestine's claim to join the club, the last vestige of Britain's imperial legacy.

Mr Arafat is following what is becoming a well-trodden path. Thirty years ago, the Commonwealth seemed little more than a left-over of Empire. Now, however, nobody



Seeking entry: Yasser Arafat leaving the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on his way to meet Tony Blair

wants to leave - and the number of those who want to join is increasing. Two years ago, the mostly Francophone Cameroon joined the Commonwealth. Formerly Portuguese Mozambique, too, has joined --- despite some hesitation from other members of the club. Now, even Rwanda is seeking to join. Mentbership requires countries to "accept the Queen as head of the Commonwealth".

For Mr Arafat, the attraction of the Com-

monwealth is not just the cosy relationships that come free with every member's welcome pack, but also the signal that membership sends - that Palestine is a real country, not just an almost-state. Mr Arafat first bid for a form of "associate status" - but was told that there could be no halfway house.

The Commonwealth's apparent strength - one of the reasons for Mr Arafat to be interested in membership - is also one reason

why Mr Arafat's application has run into some resistance. The human rights record of the Palestinian authorities has been patchy, at best. And yet, the new-look Commonwealth is keen to insist on a basic commitment to human rights - hence Nigeria's suspension from the chib for the past two years. Mr Arafat may be required to give. guarantees which, on past form, he would find difficult to meet.

Photograph: Brian Hams

The Palestinian bid for membership i partly based on Britain's historic link with Palestine - and therefore serves as a reminder why Britain should be interested in the region. Some Commonwealth diplomats even suggest that Israel might seek to join in due course. That still seems implausible. Britain may, however, find itself propelled closer to centre stage, in the tangled attempts to find a long-term peace settlement in the region.

## **Envoys** accused of HK betrayal

**Stephen Vines** Hong Kong

Pressure is growing for a parliamentary inquiry into charges that se-nor politicians and diplomats colluded with Peking to prevent the development of democratic government in Hong Kong. In the former colony, supporters of the new gov-ernment are rubbing their hands with

glee over the row in London. Martin Lee, the leader of the Democratic Party, has joined calls for a parliamentary inquiry because he believes it will reveal how Britain misled the people of Hong Kong. The allegations of collusion and betrayal are made in a newly-published book, *The Last Governor*, by the broadcaster Jonathan Dimbleby, who secured the close co-operation of Chris Patten, the former Governor of Hong Kong, for an account of his five years in office.

Among Mr Dimbleby's most serious charges, evidently made on the basis of information supplied by Mr Patten, are allegations that senior Foreign Office officials colluded with China to rig a 1987 Hong Kong public consultation exercise into representative government. The aleged aim was to show that there was no support for democratic government, allowing ministers to wriggle out of their promise to boost representative government. Mr Patten is said to have discovered this only on his departure from Hong Kong.

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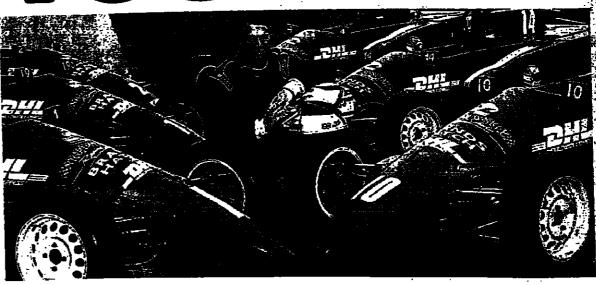
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The cold-blooded violence of Mr Blanco's death is partly the

ETA seized a young councillor from a small working-class community and threatened to kill him within 24 hours. And they did. They had demanded the relocation of ETA prisoners nearer the Basque Country. means "hole," his condition - not, so far, its banning, Talks,

something the government re-fuses to do. ETA kidnapped a prison officer, Jose Antonio stooped, emaciated and barely kept him in an underground cell for the same reason. When Civil Guardsmen freed him a fortnight ago, from what is called in Basque zulo, which

conscious - shocked the nation and tempered the relief at his release. The horror of Mr Blanco's death, shortly after, was too much to bear. Government reactions have

been cautious. They have called for the "isolation" of HB but

are unthinkable for the moment. A military clampdown would be useless and counterproductive. But in conditions there all options have been tried and failed, a transcenden new factor has emerged. Spaniards have risen up and cast



The coffin of Miguel Angel Blanco being carried by Photographs: AFP, Reuters signs saying 'No more'

Ermua, Basque Country

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The unprecedented tidal wave of grief and anger that has en-gulfed Spain in recent days roared again yesterday with the funeral of Miguel Angel Blanco, the young local politician shot dead last week by ETA gunmen, and the rallying of hundreds of thousands last

night in Madrid and Barcelona. The Prime Minister, Jose Maria Aznar, the heir to the throne, Prince Felipe. Cabinet ministers, three former prime ministers, military top brass and union leaders joined thousands in the Basque village of Ermua for the funeral, led by the Bishop of Bilbao.

Special trains were laid on to bring people from throughout

#### 'I had to come today. These assassins have destroyed everything

the Basque Country to this hamlet so insignificant that its railway halt bears no name. Mourners gathered patiently in the drizzle all morning outside the village church.

There were, perhaps, fewer tears than in the days since Miguel - as multitudes across the land have taken to calling him - was found dying, face down in a wood, with two bullets in his skull on Saturday.

His mother, sister and fiancee wept and almost collapsed as they made their way to the church through crowds which did not stop applauding. An elderly man in a black
Basque beret who had put me
off at the right station said: "I
had to come today. I did not accompany my children and
grandchildren to Saturday's big
demonstration in Rilbao bedemonstration in Bilbao, bedestroyed everything."

The Bishop of Bilbao, Ricardo Blasquez, said: "Terrorism has shown its face, cold and The midday start of the ser-

vice was marked by a nationwide stoppage of 10 minutes, an bour in the Basque Country. The cast of dignitaries in-

cluded Adolfo Suarez, Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo and Felipe Gonzalez - former prime min isters who between them guided Spain from dictatorship to democracy. They led the crowd that followed the cortège for two miles through the streets and up into the misty pine-covered hillside, gashed by a vast slate quarry, to the cemetery.

Clapping and shouts of "Miguel, si, ETA, no," and "Asexinos!" reverberated off the blocks of flats decked in black. Some mourners held their hands behind their necks - indicating ETA's preferred target - and shouted "Here's my neck." A poster hung from the gates of a cement works read: We are all Miguel Angel. Spaniards have become used

to ETA terrorism. Attacks on politicians, judges, policemen and ordinary folk in the wrong place have become absorbed into the political landscape More than 800 have been killed since Basque separatists took up arms against Franco in the mid-Sixties - 12 since Mr Aznar came to power last year. He miracu-lously escaped a car-bomb attack that left his armour-plated vehicle a smouldering heap.

Measures to combat Basque terrorism have ranged from death-squads to attempts at dialogue. The Basque country has, meanwhile, achieved more autonomy than any region in effect on ETA. Immune to repression and blandishment, it remains intact and effective,

fury erupted at the weekend in cause my breathing is bad." He added: "These assassins have enough. It is an extraordinary enough. It is an extraordinary

## Chirac fails to quash label of lame duck

Joanna Lee Paris

Jacques Chirac, interviewed yesterday for the the first time since his right-wing coalition's electoral defeat on 1 June, has failed to relieve the impression that he is now a lame-duck president.

The television interview, transmitted from the Elysee Palace, was an attempt to improve the President's credibility, battered by the Socialist electoral victory in a poll which Mr Chirac had called a year earlier than he needed to.

But the Gaullist head of state missed the opportunity to stamp times irritable and defensive. his authority on the "cohabita-Prime Minister, as his predecessor, François Mitterand had done when he found himself in the same position - with Mr Chirac as premier - in 1986.

In an interview then, Mr Mitterrand used the opportunity to announce his refusal to accept the new government's proposed privatisation plans, indicating that he had no intention of relinquishing any of his power or authority to his cohabitation partner and rival.

Mr Chirac's performance was not so convincing. Questioned on defence, Europe, justice, immigration, privatisation, social was very new, different or likely to improve his credibility.

In the improve rus creationary.

Though fluent and fairly convincing on the some less controversial topics, such as the troversial topics, such as the chlargement of Nato, he was at chlargement of Nato, he was at



President Chirac: In an

The workings of the cohabition arrangement with the new tation also remain fairly vague. Although, when pushed, the President said he believed that it would work, it is unclear on what grounds this belief is based. And when he was asked who would take the final decision on entry into the single currency, he simply refused to

Mr Chirac clearly wishes to pursue the policies established by his government over the last two years. However, if Mitterrand managed to retain a strong position during his two separate periods of cohabitation, be-tween 1986-88 and 1993-5, it on defence, Europe, Justice, immigration, privatisation, social reforms and the economy, for more than an hour, the President failed to offer anything that dent failed to offer anything that for the electoral defeat, he is un-

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# Europe gets jitters over wider union

After years of promises to expand eastwards, the European Union will tomorrow set off down the road to enlargement with the publication of propos-

als to invite six new members. The Commission will propose that Slovenia and Estonia should join Poland, the Czechi Republic, Hungary and Cyprus in the first wave of new mem-

The proposals will give ex-isting EU leaders a clear choice when they come to finalise the list of new countries during December meeting in Largembourg.

The proposals, entitled "Agenda 2000", will also set out plans for major reform of EU policies on farming and aid for poor regions, paving the way for

The enlargement of the EU coincides with a parallel process

EU faces its greatest challenge, writes Sarah Helm in Brussels

Cold War divisions. For the EU, the current expansion is the most challenging and potentially divisive yet undertaken. It is already causing more friction than the accession of Spain, For-tugal and Greece in the 1980s.

The first six applicants (or five plus-one" as the group is known, distinguishing Cyprus from the East Europeans) may be full members by 2002. With a total of 10 applicants waiting to join, the expansion could ultimately lead to a European Union of half a billion people, stretching from the Arctic Circle to the Aegean, and from the Black Sea to the Atlantic

The difficulties facing would-

anisations seek to end the old be members, as they seek to cold War divisions. For the EU, meet the EU's single-market standards, adopt agricultural norms, ensure democratic freedoms and apply EU policies on open borders and the environment, are far-reaching.

But the candidates seem determined to make the grade. For some would-be members, the economic benefit of the EU is now a higher priority than the military security of Nato membership. Nevertheless, the can-didates are watching with some trepidation as evidence grows that political will to accept

them may be lacking.
Britain has always backed en-largement, some would say because it is likely to dilute federalism. But some countries - such as Spain, Italy, Ireland and Greece - fear expansion, knowing it will divert aid from

their own, poorer regions.

Commission proposals for reform of the common agricultural policy (CAP) have been drawn up with enlargement in mind; the idea is to take the burden off the

taxpayer and help consumers. Under plans for reforming structural funds, to be published next week, the Commission envisages a freeze on spending and an overhaul of pri-orities, which are certain to cause ructions, particularly in poorer southern countries. Even without enlargement, the plans mean a reduction in the number of EU citizens benefiting from structural funds

from 51 to 31 per cent. Germany, hitherto in the vanguard of the supporters of EU expansion, has developed increasingly cold feet due to fears that it will be asked to pay

The strictures of meeting

the Maastricht criteria for the single currency have exacerbated fears about cost across the

Cook Rusi anger arres Bos

umon.
Should Europe fail to set up
a single currency by 1 January
1999, it is widely acknowledged that enlargement would be forced off its tracks.

France is only lukewarm, and French officials have recently questioned whether the EU has the "common vision" necessary to accept new members.

Smaller member states fear expansion will diminish their clout, shifting the balance of power as the new members wield their votes in the Council of Ministers.

The strongest evidence of a cooling towards the eastern neighbours came at the Amsterdam summit, when the existing 15 miled to agree even on mild reforms in readiness for

enlargement.
Bitter divisions over expansion also emerged last week within the European Commission, when Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, and several commissioners, urged restricting first-wave negotiations to Poland, the Czech Republic

and Hungary.
Sir Leon Brittan, the trade commissioner, argued against a political fix, saying expert opinions justified Slovenia and Estonia joining too. In the end, the case for broader expansion won

This decision may defuse doubts about the EU's commitment to proceed with en-largement. Had the smaller list been agreed at Commission level, the prospects of a broader enlargement being endorsed by member states would have been small, and accusations from candidates of political double-dealing would have been levelled against Brussels.

## significant shorts

#### Students battle police in the heart of Nairobi

Thousands of Kenyan students fought riot police in the heart of Nairobi, defying President Daniel arap Moi a years. Students from the Kenya Polytechnic seized control of Haile Selassie Avenue, a main road through the city, throwing stones and demanding constitutional reforms before a general election. Police arrived in minutes and fired tear-gas and rubber bullets to drive the students back into the campus.

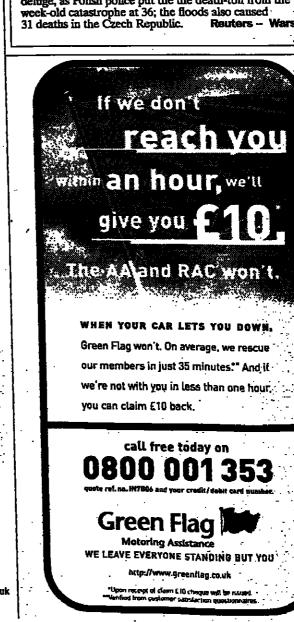
#### Jet traces doomed TWA 800

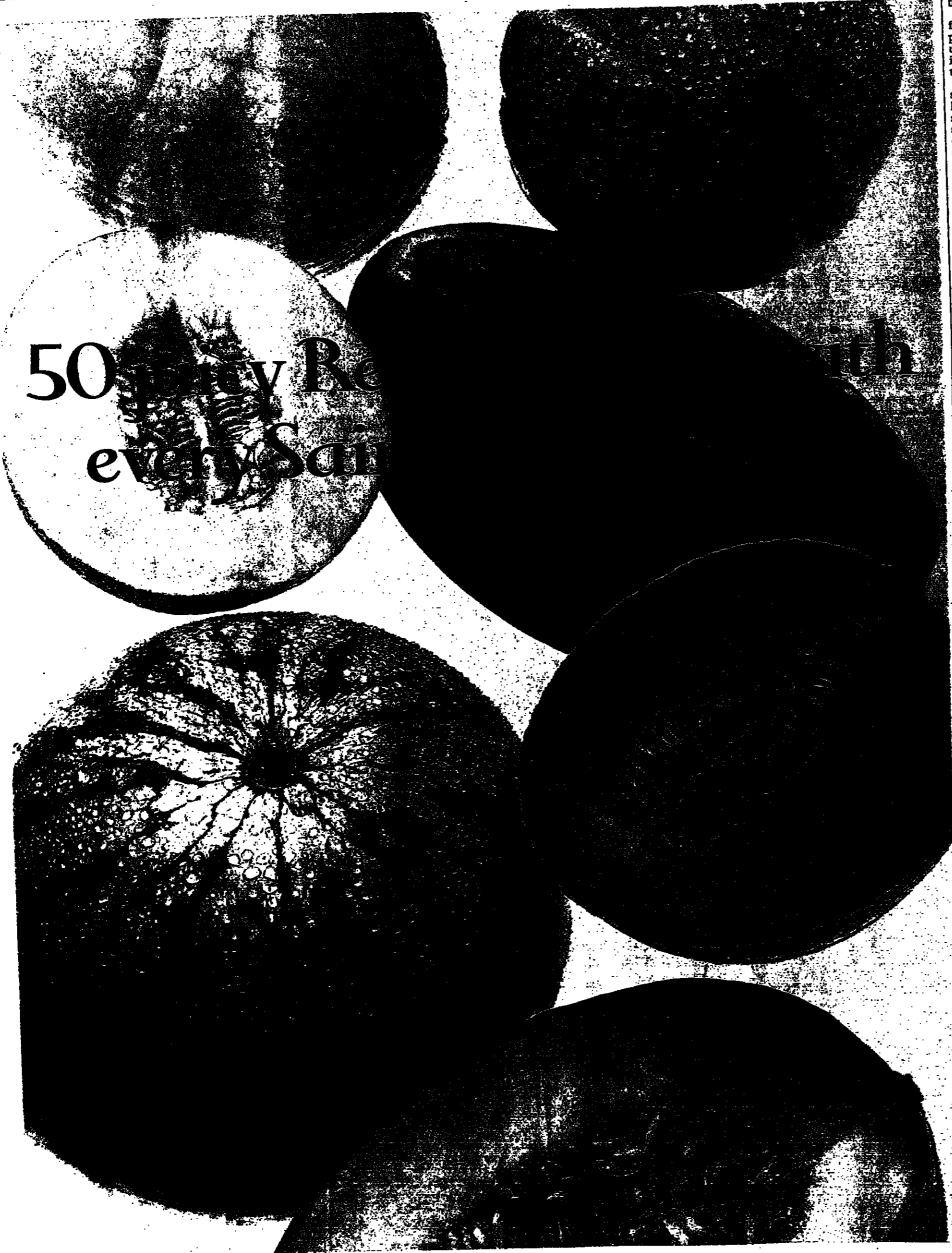
Investigators of the crash a year ago of TWA 800 off Long Island were due to take off from Kennedy Airport on a jet similar to the one that crashed, in an effort to simulate its last moments. The aircraft was fitted with 150 sensors and gauges. The focus will be conditions in a central fuel tank. It is agreed that the crash, in which 230 died, followed an explosion in the nearly-empty tank but what caused vapours to ignite in the first place remains a mystery. David Usborne - New York

#### Poles braced for more floods

The Oder River receded in the historic city of Wroclaw. but smaller communities downstream braced for a similar delnge, as Polish police put the the death-toll from the week-old catastrophe at 36; the floods also caused 31 deaths in the Czech Republic.

Reuters - Warsaw





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## Cook rides Russian anger over arrests in Bosnia

Rupert Comwell

A still-smarting Russia yesterday warned against any repeat of last week's British-led operation by Nato to arrest two alleged Bosnian Serb war criminals. It denounced the action as desta-bilising counter-productive, and outside the mandate of the international peace-keeping force

in the former Yugoslav republic. Speaking after an otherwise harmonious meeting with his visiting British counterpart, Robin Cook, the foreign minister, Yevgeny Primakov, left no doubt of Moscow's anger at not being consulted over the move against members of a Serb community with which it has deep historical and cultural ties. "We were not notified about the specifics and we weren't even notified in general that things of

this kind could take place.

Mr Cook, however, kept his promise before this first foray to Russia by a member of the new Labour government, that he would be "diplomatic but unrepentant" over the strike by British special forces. He was "unaware" of any further sealed indictments against suspected war criminals in the British sector of Bosnia, but refused to rule out more arrests should they be requested.

He also welcomed the 20year sentence handed down yesterday in The Hague against Dusan Tadic, the first Serb to be convicted of atrocities in the Bosnian war, saying it sent a clear message that there would be "no escape" from sentences

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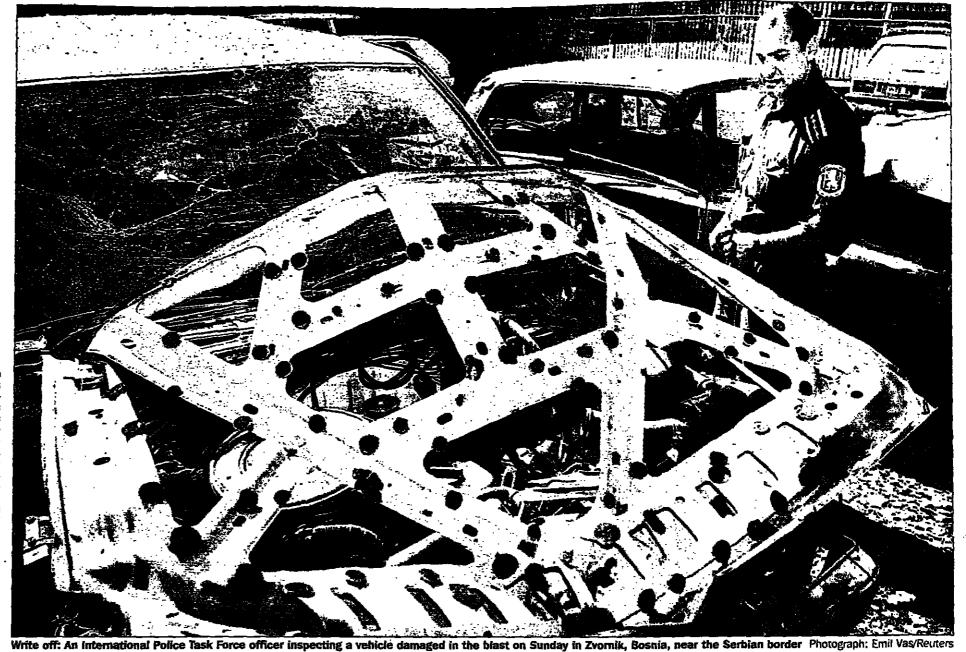
certainly any moves by Nato to apprehend either Radovan Karadzic or Ratko Mladic, authors of ethnic cleansing in the Muslim Republic and top of the most-wanted list - could tor-pedo efforts to build closer political and military links between Nato and Russia through the new Joint Council, whose first ministerial session is scheduled for New York this September.

Russian politicians see the body as a symbol of defeat for Moscow in its attempt to block Nato's recent expansion. But Britain wants to use it to knit the Russian military more closely into future peace-keeping missions, to monitor progress by Russia in eliminating tactical nuclear weapons, and to keep tabs on technology shipments by Moscow to countries like Iran which might violate existing arms proliferation agreements.

Mr Primakov also signalled displeasure over any effort to include the three former Soviet Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia in Nato's next round of expansion, which could take place in two years.

Here, Mr Cook was more accommodating of Moscow's fear that the United States, pressed by vociferous ethnic Baltic groups, might be edging towards just such a decision - which would bring the alliance within a few miles of St Petersburg.

Russia's second city. Ruling out any question of a Russian veto over new mem-bers, Mr Cook stressed that further enlargement was "some way down the track", and that this month's deal to admit Poland, Humgary and the Czech



## Bomb blast raises fear of reprisals

Christopher Bellamy Defence Correspondent

Bosnian Serb anger at actions by the international stabilisation force (S-For) in Bosnia against war crimes suspects erupted on Sunday night when a bomb blast destroyed a vehicle be-longing to the Organisation on Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) monitoring mission in Zvornik.

The bomb blew windows out of the building housing three international organisations, de-Left unchecked, however, Republic was a mouthful Nato stroyed one OSCE vehicle and We see isolated incidents," said

sources said they thought it was an "isolated incident". Zvornik, is on the other side

of Bosnia from Prijedor, where British SAS troops killed an indicted war crimes suspect -former police chief Simo Drijaca - on Thursday. Another suspect, Milan Kovacevic, wanted for atrocities at the Omarska concentration camp, was taken alive, and is now in The Hague awaiting trial at the international war crimes tribunal.

"We do not see a widespread, the argument over Bosnia - and would need some time to digest. damaged another. But S-For Duncan Bullivant, spokesman for troops deployed for his funer- pects for fear of provoking publicly indicted war crimes sus- everyone is desperate to avoid.

Carlos Westendorp, the High Representative to Bosnia, Until Sunday night, the Bosnian Serbs were restrained in their reaction to S-For's first seizure of war crimes suspects. And although Bosnian Serb leaders, including the elected president, Biljana Playsic, condemned the arrests.

they, too, appealed for calm. Drijaca was buried on Sunday, and the emotion generated may have triggered the bomb ation in the area where Drljawas sufficiently calm for British avoided seizing war crimes sus- even though it has alcreed the 67 and the Bosnian Serbs, which

al to be withdrawn. Ms Playsic, armed resistance from the lohas come under increasing criticism from opponents in the Bosnian Serb republic, Yesterday she rejected attempts by na-tionalist rival, Momeilo Krajisnik, to step down. She said she would continue her crusade against corruption and to "establish a state ruled by law". The OSCE supervised the elections and may have been an ap-

propriate, as well as soft target for Ms Playsic's opponents. Until Thursday, S-For had

who was elected last September, cal parties. But the presence of wanted war criminals has threatened the elected authorities. Although the move to go and seize two war crimes suspects was risky, S-For sources yesterday stood by their actions.

"These were very obvious individuals. They were relatively easy to get." said a diplo-matic source. "The question now is do you go in and get the rest or let them sweat?"

S-For believes the swoop on

peets still at large, and also about six who are subject to "scaled indictments". The big fish -Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic - are now being doubly cautious. Karadzic is believed to be at home, near Pale, in the French sector, Mladic is reported to have taken a holiday in Montenegro, but may now be in the Bosnian Serb Army head-

quarters at Han Pjesac. An attack on either of these places would require massive military force and possibly start Thursday was worth the risk, an all-out war between S-For

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## Alexandra Danilova

ties and Thirties produced some legendary dancers and one of the most remarkable was Alexandra Danilova. A performer of charisma and exubecant charm, gifted with an extensive range, she dominated the scene creating many roles in the ballets of Léonide Massine and George Balanchine. By her charm, elegance and gen-erous nature, she captivated audiences and friends around the

Born in 1904 at Peterhof, of military stock, she was orphaned early and brought up by relatives who became aware of her natural aptitude for dance. She was trained in the Imperial Theatre School, Petrograd (St Petersburg), where her princi-pal teacher was Elizabeta

During her childhood training, she had the benefit of watching the Maryinsky bal-lerinas Mathilda Kschessinska, Olga Preobrajenska, Anna Paylova and the renowned Olga Spessiviseva perform. She remembered vividly Kschessinska and Pierre Vladimiroff in The Talisman, all of which deeply influenced her future

She graduated in 1921 and joined the Opera-Ballet at the Maryinsky Theatre, where she received encouraging words from Mikhail Fokine. In her second year she was dancing solos and duets and her first leading role was The Firebird choreographed by Fyodor

With George Balanchine, Tamara Geva and a small group of dancers and singers, she left Leningrad (as Petrograd had become) in 1924 to tour European spas in the course of which she performed at the Empire Theatre, London.

After the conclusion of the tour, the group went to Paris in search of further engagements. At the house of Misia Sert, Diaghilev's patroness, she, Balanchine and Nicholas Effmoff met the great impresario, who was always searching for

After auditioning for Diaghilev they were accepted into his company, where at first they were coolly received. At that time, at the age of 20, Danilova was a little plump and Diaghilev complained,

whereupon she dieted and dancer in La Boutique Fantas-thereafter kept her figure in perfect trun. It was said she had the Le Beau Danube. most beautiful legs in the world and is reputed to have insured them for £200,000.

Her chance came when Vera Nemchinova left the company to appear in a revue. Danilova took over her roles with great distinction. She danced with Serge Lifar, Anton Dolin and Leon Wożakovsky in Fokine's Cleopatra, Carnival and Petruschka and worked with Leonide Massine on the ballet Zéphire et Flore (to the music of Dukelsky) with decor and costumes by Braque.

During her five years with the Diaghilev Ballet, she established herself as a prima ballerina, creating many roles, the most outstanding of which were the Can-Can dancer in La Boutique Fantasque (Rossini), the Masked Lady in Le Bal (Rieti). the Fairy Queen in The Triumph of Neptune (Lord Berners), Terpsichore in Apollon Musagète (Stravinsky) and in Swan Lake Act 2 and Aurora's

Wedding (Trhaikovsky).
After the death of Diaghilev in 1929, there followed a period of insecurity but by 1931 she was enjoying a long run in Waltzes from Vienna at the Alhambra Theatre, London. During this time she parted from Balanchine and married Giuseppe Massera, an Italian engineer. They were scarcely ever together and five years later she was widowed.

At the end of the run of Waltzes from Vienna, she studied with Nicolai Legat in London and was much refreshed by his classes. She then sought entry into the de Basil Company but at first the Colonel would only offer her a job without pay. By comparison with the immaculate manuers of Diaghilev, she found de Basil somewhat uncouth; however, she eventually settled for £40 a week and became a great asset. Massine liked her and created many parts for her, often dancing with her himself. It became a highly professional

partnership. Among numerous ballets created by Massine, she danced in Pas d'acier (Nabokov), Les Matelots (Auric) and Contes Russes (Liadov) but the two roles that established her supremacy were the Can-Can

Danilova tells in her autobiography, Choura, of visits to her favourite London restaurant, the Hungaria, where, whenever she entered, the orchestra struck up the waltz from Le Beau Danube in her honour. One night Prince Edward of Wales asked her to dance with him and in a state of nerves, she confesses, she found herself on the wrong foot. Possibly the only time in her life she put a foot

danced with Oleg Timino.

Americas, which opened up new contracts. During one of

these tours, Danilova married

again, Kazimir Kokic, a Yu-

goslavian dancer from the

corps de ballet but, not long

Three years later the marriage

eral stars left the Denham com-

pany to join Lucia Chase's American Ballet Theatre, whilst

others left to go with Balan-

chine, who was setting up his

New York City Ballet under the auspices of Lincoln Kirstein.

Consequently, the quality of the Ballet Russe began to decline, but Danilova stayed loyal to the

company. However, she did take long periods of leave to

make guest appearances

Ballet audiences in Europe

were eager to see one of their

favourite ballerinas again and

Danilova's name always en-

sured a full house. In 1949

with Prederick Franklin she

made guest appearances at

Covent Garden with the Royal

Ballet and in 1951 with Festival

Later that year, she finally left

the Denham company when

the curtain was lowered in the

middle of a performance of

Gaîté Parisienne. The perfor-

mance was running late and, to

avoid a dispute with the Union

of Theatre-workers, the man-

agement took this drastic action

leaving the ballet unfinished.

Such a happening was unacceptable to Danilova.

and Mia Slavenska formed their

own company with a group of

21 dancers. Danilova joined

them as co-star. The reper-

toire was mainly excerpts from

popular ballets and some nov-

elties, such as Mademoiselle

Fifi choreographed by Zachary

Solov. The company carried

out an extensive tour to the

Philippines and Japan but with-

in a year it folded and Danilo-

In 1952 Frederick Franklin

Ballet at the Stoll Theatre.

With the end of the war, sev-

was dissolved

abroad

In 1934 she took a break from de Basil to reappear m the New York production of Waltzes from Vienna, now re-named The Great Waltz. It did not repeat its London success and she soon found herself back with the Ballet Russe but by this time de Basil had parted company with his co-partner, René Blum, and it was with the Blum ensemble that she returned to Monte Carlo.

This brought her the interesting experience of working with Bronislava Nijinska and she extended her repertoire by dancing in Nijinska's ballets Les Biches (Poulenc), Bolero (Ravel), Pictures at an Exhibition (Mussorgsky) and Les Noces (Stravinsky).

During this period when companies were continually regrouping, Danilova soon found herself back in the de Basil ensemble, but in 1938, when the company split once more, she left de Basil for the last time and returned to Massine's Ballet

Russe de Monte Carlo. She valued his choreographic genius and the opportunities he gave her. She danced Coppélia (Delibes), which was one of her greatest successes, and enjoyed immensely Gaîté Parisienne (Offenbach) in which she was partnered by Frederick Caught in Paris at the out-

break of the Second World War, with other Russians Danilova made her way to New York. There Massine re-formed his company under the mangement of Serge Denham. Once again Balanchine came into her life, making several ballets in which she starred: Night Shadow (Rieti), Danses Concertantes (Stravinsky) and Mozartiana (Choota).

tremely useful in being able to va departed to Dallas, Texas, to

piece together ballets from the old repertoire. When her re-After two happy years in tentive memory failed, she Texas, Danilova returned to could always embroider the the ballet scene in New York blank patches with her own inand in 1954 with Franklin and vention. Together they reprotwo other dancers formed a duced Paquita in which she group to perform mainly pas de deux from the classics. The company enjoyed ex-tensive tours in the South

Balanchine rearranged Mozartiana for four and a Dutch choreographer, Job Saunders, made a ballet to Faure's Dolly Suite. The company was taken up by Sol Hurok and toured the US, Canada, South Africa, Hawaii, the Philippines and Japan.

after the marriage, he was called up by the US Army. In 1957 Asami Maki, who had been her pupil in Dallas and now was director of a Tokyo-based company, invited Danilova to stage Coppélia, Swan Lake

For her farewell in Tokyo Danilova danced Raymonda.
"At the fall of the curtain, there were flowers, confetti and tears." But her final exit from the ballet was in the same year at a Gala in her honour at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York.

Even in retirement she could not keep her feet off the stage for long and in 1958 she was in a musical called Oh Captain. During the run she took up teaching again at Carnegie Hall studios. After some months she received an offer to choreograph a ballet in the opera La Gioconda at the Metropolitan Opera House. It was so successful that other offers followed.

She choreographed The Gypsy Baron, Boris Godunov, La Perichole and Adriana Becoureur. After two happy seasons at the Metropolitan, she was replaced without warning. It was a hurtful shock but Danilova was used to hard knocks and very soon she set out on a lecture-tour arranged by Columbia Artists Agency.

After this she receded for a short time into the shadows but a chance encounter with Balanchine in the street led to a long collaboration with her old colleague. During the long years ahead at the School of American Ballet, she staged excerpts from Le Pavillon Lake, Raymonda and other works.

inars at Indiana University.

Geraint Morris



With the School of American Ballet she became the most loved and revered of all the

In 1976 she appeared in the film The Turning Point. When she saw the finished product. she could not recognise herself and came to the conclusion that she was not destined for a Hollywood career.

ewas very distressed when

that she had lived too long. She had had a full life; probably one of the busiest and most popular of any ballerinas in the history of ballet. In her autobiography she summed up her life in these words:

"I put my dancing first. I sacrificed marriage, children and my country to be a ballerina and there was never any misunderstanding - I knew the price."

va, dancer and teacher: born Peterhof, Russia 20 November 1904; Diaghilev Company 1925-29; Prima Ballerina, Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo 1938-58; married 1931 Giuseppe Massera (died 1936), 1941 Kazimir Kokic (marriage dissolved 1949); died New York 13 July 1997.

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John Gregory died 27 October

A producer of classic series such as Softly Softly: Task Force and The Onedin Line, and responsible for launching the long-running Casualty, Geraint Morris switched from a distinguished career at the BBC to oversee HTV's drama output during his last few years; there he provided the ITV network with a similar audiencepuller in the detective series Wycliffe and the Welsh Fourth Channel, \$4C, with distinguished dramas.

A humorous Welshman who held on to his roots in Wales and the west, Morris joined BBC Wales in 1963 after graduating from the University College of North Wales in Bangor. As well as working on Welsh-language programmes such as Ystafell Dairgel and Lleifior, he was involved in the production of programmes

screened nationwide on the BBC such as Gwyn Thomas and Selected Exits, starring Anthony Hopkins.

Then, as a director, he worked on Sofily Sofily, Barlow at Large and Sutherland's Law between 1971 and 1973, before taking over as producer of Softly Softly: Task Force (1973-76), during its final three series. The original series, Softly

Sofity, starring Stratford Johns and Frank Windsor as Det Ch Supt Charlie Barlow and Det Ch Insp John Watt, was a spinoff from Z Cars, the gritty programme that changed the image of the police on British television. Softly Softly was based in the Bristol area and followed the exploits of a regional crime

Morris next produced and directed The Onedin Line (1976-80), following in the footsteps

of Peter Graham Scott and Peter Cregeen. The drama, which began in 1971 and was filmed off Dartmouth, told the story of a 19th-century Liverpool shipping family and starred Peter Gilmore as James Onedin. Its

tumes and settings, and boardroom-to-bedroom storylines. became essential Sunday-night viewing for millions during the Morris subsequently produced King's Royal (starring Tom Bell as head of a whiskyblending family, 1982), Juliet Bravo (featuring Anna Carteret as Inspector Rate Longton,

combination of period cos-

Inspector Jean Darblay) and Collectors (1986). He stuck with his formula for producing programmes of popular appeal by launching Casu-

1983-85, after earlier series had

starred Stephanie Turner as

alty in 1986. It came about charge nurse and union reprewhen Michael Grade, then controller of BBC1, sought ideas for hospital drama series.

Its creators, Jeremy Brock who had worked with Moreis on Juliet Bravo - and Paul Unwin, conceived Casualty as a gritty, realistic series with several different storylines running through each episode. Morris joined the pair in researching. the realities of life in Bristol Royal Infirmary. The screen hospital became the fictional Holby General.

The plots were to be more important than the characters and Casualty gained notoriety - and criticism from Conserv-ative MPs - for dealing with issues such as Aids, terrorist bombings and race riots.

However, the main characters were well drawn and popular with viewers: the to revitalise the Wales and

sentative Charlie Fairhead, the motherly female nurse Megan Roach, the senior nurse, Duffy, and a whole team of doctors, paramedics, managers, receptionists and porters. The programme was an instant hit. attracting 10 million viewers in its second year, and Morris directed the first three series

He left the BBC to produce TTV's hard-hitting police drama series The Bill (1988-89) but returned to the Corporation to revamp Casualty, making a further two series (1990-92).

In 1994, after making a new production of Selected Exits, he became senior drama consultant to HTV and producer of its new detective series, Wycliffe, starring Jack Shepherd and filmed in Corowall. He helped

West of England's drama output, which had in the Seventies and Eighties been notable for its adventure series and mini-

Last year, Morris was appointed HTV's head of drama and Wycliffe is still running. His notable HTV Welsh-language productions for S4C, as executive producer, included the award-winning television film Yn Gymysg Oll i Gyd (All Mixed Up. 1995), which depicted a schizophrenic's struggle to cope with life, and Pam Fi, Duw? (Why Me. God. 1996), a series set in a comprehensive school in South Wales.

Anthony Hayward

Gerains Morris, selevision producer and director, born Merity Tydfil 28 March 1941; married (two sons); died Chepston, Gwent 12 July 1997.

#### BIRTHS

ELLISON-SMITH: Martine and Str-

#### DEATHS

DOLMETSCH: Dr Carl Frederick Dalmetsch CBE Hon DLitt FTCL Peacefully on 11 July in Haskemere, dearly loved huntrand of Greta, father deany loved hashand of Gretz, father of Français, Jeanne, Marguerite and the late Richard, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral service on Thursday 17 July at St Barthalumew's Church, Haslemere. at 10,30am, Flowers or donations (RSPB) co G.M. Luff & Partners, 84 Lion Lane, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 1JH, 01428 643524.

LESTER: Peacefully on 9 July 1997 in hospital, Julia Marie, aged 30 years. Beloved wife of Andy, dearly loved daughter of John, the late Brenda, and its 10 hare and Jim. Much loved sister to Neil and Nita, Kim and Carls. Devoted auntie to Becky, Nicholas and Nitalia, Sprace at \$2.4 Autres's Natalie. Service at St Andrew's Church, Kinsun, on Wednesday to July at 2 Opm, followed by cremation at Bournemouth Crematorium at 3 Reput. Family flowers only please. dentations to the Royal Bournemouth documents to the royal production that the Hospital Breast Care Fund may be sent e a George Scott Funeral Directors. 13/15 Somerset Road. Boscombe BH7 bH (01202 395827). SHAW: Parrick, died 27 June, at bome. aged 2% Beloved and devoted son, brother, lover and friend; a remarkable person whose life was great en-turely to those he cared for. Service to be held at the Temple Church, EC4, Alpin on Wednesday 16 July, bur-tal at Highgate Cemetery at 4.30pm. Flowers to 16 Groveway, 5W9; please

## ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Onese and The Bodes of Lidentary green a Curden Parts of Bods organisation as year of the other Parts of Bods organisation and Lineary. The Indian of Hall Inside P Weshing, Amountain, The Indian of Hall Inside P Weshing, Amountain, The Indian of Hall Inside Policy of Lidentaine ConConsoline Core 7 of Med. In makes 501, The Sections On 1 orange Houses (The Charles of the Research On 1 orange Houses) (The Charles of the Research Ones of Med. Products, Beautiful the Committee Parts of the Committee of Med. Inside the Inside the Committee of the Products On 1 orange of the Committee of the Committee of the Inside Committee of Land of Contact, London Web The Princeton Broad oppose Research Committee of the London Still, Prince Lidentain, Partson, Laborate Life Board, Lourencome Land of Contact, London Web The Princeton Broad oppose Research Committee of the London Land Contact, Manual Street, Scalescomment, Line Still, Rose on-Web, Henry Boddan; equal the London Land on the Contact States of the National United Stills of the Contact States of the National United States of the Ports States of the National United States of the Ports States of the National United States of the Ports States of the National United States of the Ports States of the National United States of the Ports States of the National United States of the Ports States of the National United States of the Ports States of the National United States of the Ports States of the National United States of the Ports States of the National United States of the Ports States of the National United States of the Ports States of the National United States of the Ports States of the National United States of the Ports States of the National United States of the Ports States of the National United States of the Ports States of the National United States of the Ports States of the National United States of the Ports States of the National United States The Ports of the Ports States of the National United States The Ports of the Ports of t

#### Births. **Marriages** & Deaths

call Leverton & Sons on 0171-387 6075 with further enquiries. 6075 with further enquiries.
WILES: Peter John de la Fosse. Died
11 July 1997, peacefully at home.
Beloved husband of Carolyn. Emeritus Professor of Sovietological Studies, London School of Economics
1965-85, Professor, Brandeis University, Mastachusetts 1960-63. Visiting Professor, Columbia University, New York 1958, Fellow, New College,
Oxford, 1948-60. No flowers please.
Guits to Alzbeimen's Society. Gills to Alzheimer's Society.

Gifts to Alzheimer's Society.

YORKE: Devid John Napier Edward, on 12 July 1997, devoted and addred husband of the late Anne, and June; loved and jewing father of Charles and James, and grandfather of Philip and Henry. Family flowers only, but donations, if wished, to St Barnabas Hospiec, Columbia Drive, Worthing, West Sussex, Funeral arrangements to be announced later.

acements for Gazette RIRITES Announcements for Gazette SUCHES,
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Changing of the Guard

7. **5**.7 (1.22) 3.44 (1.22)

#### Birthdays The Sultan of Brunei, 51; Professor Sir James Ball, economist, 64; Dr Jo-

celvo Bell Burnell, astronomer, 54: Mr Julian Bream, guitarist, 64; Mr Geoffrey Burgon, composer, 56; Lord Buxton of Alsa, former chairman, Anglia Television, 79; Miss Carmen Calli, founder, Virago Press, 59; Mr Robert Conquest, author, 80; Professor Sir David Cox, former Warden of Nuffield College, Oxford, 73; Mr John Denham MP, Parlismentary Secretary, Social Security, 44; Sir Alexander Durie, a former vice-president of the AA, 82; Sir Malcolm Edge, former Deputy Master and Chairman, Board of Trinity House, 60; Air Marshal the Rev Sir Paterson Fraser, 90; Sir Simon Gourlay, former President, National Farmers' Union, 63; Sir John Graham, former diplomat, 71; Sir Ronald Hadfield, former chief constable, West Midlands, 58; Mr Ralph Hammond Innes, novelist, 84; Mr Trevor Horn, songwriter, 48; Miss Amn Jellicce, playwright and theatre director, 7k; Mr Charles Kelly, for-mer Chief Copstable, Staffordshire, 67; Sir Larry Lamb, former Editor, Daily Express, 68; Mr Henry Mc-Cubbin MEP, 55: Dome Iris Murdoch, novelist and philosopher, 78; Mrs Juliet Pannett, portrait painter,

#### gynaecologist, 57.

Anniversaries Births: Inigo Jones, architect, 1573; Rembrandi Harmenszoon van Rijn, painter. 1606: Sir Henry Colc. founder of the South Kensington Mu-seum, 1808; Henry Edward Manning, Cardinal Archishop of Westminster, 1808, Deaths: William Thomas Mor-ton, dentist, introducer of ether as a Producin Chekhov, playwright and

So; Mrs Marion Roe MP, 61; Mis

Linda Renstadt, singer, 51; Mr Ron Smith, trade-unionist, 82; Air Chief

Marshal Sir Ruthven Wade, 77; Pro-

fessor Lord Winston, obstetrician and

writer, 1976; Margaret Mary Lock-wood, actress, 1990. On this day: Jerusalem was captured by the Crusaders, 1099; the Royal Society was granted a royal charter, 1662; the "Marseillaise" was adopted as the French National Anthem, 1795; margarine was patented, 1869; Alcoholics Anonymous was founded in Britain, 1948; close up pictures of Mars were transmitted by television from the US Mariner IV satellite, 1965. Today is the Feast Day of St Athanasius of Naples, St Barhadbesaha St Bosses Pessi Day of St. Amanasara of Napies, St. Bartiadbesaba, St. Bonaventure, St. David of Munktorp, St. Donald, St. Edith of Polesworth, St. Pompilio Pir-rotti, St. Swithin and St. Vladimir of

#### Lectures

Victoria & Albert Museum: Deirdre Robson, "Design in America in the 1930s", 2.30pm.

National Portrait Gullery: Anne Thackray, "Aletheia, Countess of Arundel", 1.10pm. Institute of Economic Affairs. Lord North St. London SW1: Prolessor Peter Boetike, "Transitions to the Market Place: too important to be left to the market?", 6.30pm.

#### Dinners

Foundation for Science and

Lord Jenkin of Roding, Chairman, Foundation for Science and Technology, was in the chair at a lecture and dinner discussion held at the Roy-al Society last night. Mr Nigel Crouch, Professor Frank Blackler, Mr Graham Smart and Dr Andrew Rickman spoke ou "Innovation - The State of the Nation. What are we really achieving?" Others present included: Lord and Ludy Butterworth; Lord Disor-Smith; Baroness Hilton; Baroness Hogg, Lord Persy of Walson; Lord Quirk; the Earl Lord Ferry of Wealton's Lord Quarts; the Earl
of Selbornes; Lord Taylor of Gryfer, Sir Walter Bodnes; Sir David Cookney; Sir Robin Jacob: Sir Akuron and Lady Klug, Sir Hugh,
Laddie; Sir Brian Neill; Sir Neville Purvis; Sir
Colin Sprekting; Mr Tam Dalyell MP: Ms
Cheryl Gillan MP: Dr Phyllin Starley MP; Dr
D. Evans; Dr Bruce Smith; Dr Fronta Steele.

## No powers to give cash to asylum seekers

Regins v Secretary of State for Health, ex parte London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham and ors; Queen's Beach Division Crown Office List (Mr Justice Laws) 9 July 1997

A local authority which provided accommodation under section 21(1)(a) of the National Assistance Act 1948 for asylum seekers who had no right to other state benefits because they had not claimed asylum at the port of entry on arrival had no power under that section to make cash payments to the asylum seekers for the purchase of

necessary requisites. The application by the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham and three individual asylum seekers for judicial review of the decision of the Secretary of State for Health that there was no provision for local authorities to give cash payments to asylum seekers was refused.

Nigel Pleming QC and Steven Kovats (Treasury Solictior) for the Secretary of State; Patrick Elias QC and Nigel Giffin (Legal Services Divison) for Hammersmith & Fullium; Stephen Knafter (Hammersmith Law Centre) for K; Stephen Knafler (Hackney Law Centre) for A and M.

Mr Justice Laws said that the applications concerned the true construction of section 21(1) of the National Assistance Act 1948. In R v Westminster City Council and ors, ex p A and ors (Law Report, 26 February 1997) the Court of Appeal

#### LAW REPORT

15 July 1997

had held that certain asylum seekers, whose claims were made not at the port of entry upon arrival but later, could take advantage of the duty imposed upon local authorities by section 21(1)(a) of the 1948 Act to make arrangements for providing residential accommodation.

Under the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 such persons had no right to cash state benefits such as income support or housing benefit, nor any rights under the homeless persons legislation. Having no such rights, and lacking any resources of their own in this country, those persons would be destitute but for recourse to section 21.

Facilities of the type provided by Hammersmith & Fulham for the kinds of persons traditionally thought of as needing help under the provisions of Part III of the 1948 Act, such as the elderly or those with mental health problems, were not at all suitable for the accommodation of asylum seekers. In consequence the authority had had recourse to the provision of bed

and breakfast accommodation. That provision, however, did not secure to the asylum seekers "board and other services, amenities and requisites" under section 21(5), in particular meals other than breakfast and other necessary incidents

of everyday life such as toi-

letries. Hammersmith & Fulham said that to provide such things in kind would entail very great inconvenience, inefficiency and expense. Instead they had made cash payments, requiring the asylum seekers to use the money for the purchase of necessary requisites.

The decision of the Court of Appeal had generally imposed heavy financial burdens upon local authorities having to provide assistance to asylum seekers under section 21. In consequence Parliament had approved a special grant report providing for Asylum Seekers' Accommodation Special Grant to be paid to local authorities,

Under that measure, grant was geared to the laying out by authorities of "relevant expenditure", which meant "expenditure lawfully incurred by an authority in connection with providing accommodation under section 21 ... for any asylum seeker... who would not have been provided with that accommodation but for the decision of the High Court". In Circular LAC(97)6 para 15 the Secretary of State stipulated that "expenditure will not be regarded as relevant expenditure if it relates to . . . (c) any provision of cash payments to individual asylum seekers for

which there is no provision in

section 21 of the National

Assistance Act ..."
The sole issue for determine nation was whether the construction of section 21 offered in para 15(c) of the Circular was correct; whether the making of cash payments, as was done by Hammersmith & Fulham, was outwith the contemplation of the section.

The statute did not authorise or contemplate any such action. The expression make arrangements for providing meant that the outcome of any sech arrangements was that their beneficiaries should, in consequence of them, directly receive in kind the forms of provision. contemplated by the statute, and nothing else. Payment of money for persons to buy their own necessities left them to. make the arrangements to get what they needed.

The use of the tenni "arrangements" in sections 21(1)(4), 24(4) and 26(1) of the Act supported that conclusion. The premise of all of them was that the arrange-ments made by the authority should consist of practical measures whereby the authority fixed the means by which the provision was to be directly doivered. The making of cash, payments, accompanied by whatever insistence that they be. used only for the statutory purpose, contradicted the premise and lay outside the

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

statutory purpose.

لفكذا من الموجل

## Sex and smoking – time to rewrite the script

Tou're 16, you may or may not be down on teenage smoking while sigberry wine - but, male or female, the one thing you are likely to be is confused about what society expects you to say, do or think. One thing you know is that those GCSE results matter and the four weeks before results are out are going to be nail-bitingly tough. How different it was 15 years ago, let alone a generation ago. Then 16 was when "ou "left school", when many took jobs. Now, 16 is just a stage in an extended process of learning even though, by 16, many are indeed working part-time. Once, a 16-year-old who wasn't working was considered a toff or a failure. Now, a 16-year-old who is working fulltime is considered a failure, an early loser in life's lottery.

As for the do's and don'ts of life ... You cannot get in to see sexy or violent films at the cinema until you are 18 (though how easy it is to see them on video at home, let alone on TV late at night). No pubs; no cars. Just say no to drugs - especially Ecstasy and cannabis -while noting that some people seem intent on advertising the youthful appeal of alcopops. If you are a girl it is legal to have sex with a girl or a boy. i you are a boy it is legal to have sex with a girl but not with a boy or (sharp

intake of breath) a man. Did yesterday's smoke signals from the Government do anything to clear

beautiful - or have lips like straw- nalling greater freedom for teenage gays? Superficially it looks bizarre to pressurise 16-year-olds not to smoke while indicating that the homosexual age of consent for males be lowered to 16. What would the British of a halfcentury ago, when homosexuality was taboo and illegal, while learning to smoke was a routine entry to adulthood, think of the values of 1997? As with teenage work, it can seem a topsyturvy world. Doubtless moral conservatives will be denouncing the Government for its warped conviction that tobacco is more harmful than sex.

But, the trouble is, it is. Besides, the cases are entirely different. Tobacco first: cigarette smoking is a first-order cause of ill health and public spending. Huge numbers of those same midcentury teenagers who were taught to smoke by their parents have already died horrible deaths, or are dying early today, because of the habit. We know so much about smoking now that the scientific case against it is irrefutable. That being so, governments should energetically seek to persuade people - especially young people - not to start and, once they have, to stop.

Now sex. Of course government has concerns: safer sex is a legitimate object of policy. The consequences of sexual relationships in government organisations - notably the armed up the confusion, as ministers bore forces - need monitoring, to ensure move to adjust British law.



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E145DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 3405 / 0171-345 2435

that discipline is not breached or that discrimination occurs. But the sexual orientation of recruits is not the Government's business and it is surely only a matter of time before the Ministry of Defence musters the courage to face down the brass hats.

The immediate issue of equalising the age at which young men can consent to sex with men has been put there by Euan Sutherland's case before the European Court of Human Rights. The Government has withdrawn from the case and, to be consistent, will find it hard to resist the inevitable backbench

Nor should it. Two substantive arguments have been advanced in favour of maintaining the difference, apart from the trivial procedural point that the House of Commons visited the issue only recently. One is that homosexuality is absolutely wrong so any "extension" is compounding an evil. This view, surveys show, is held by considerable numbers of people. It was the cause of the original taboo and legislative ban. But now, as with smoking, we know better. We know that homosexuals are born, not produced by social pressure. (The fact that the vast majority of boys

boarding schools emerged as hetero-sexuals helps underline the point.) That knowledge makes homophobia and discrimination seem cruel bigotry, not sensible social protection.

The other argument is that boys of 16 are especially susceptible and need protection. Well, they are susceptible, just like their sisters. But that doesn't necessarily mean that the full force of the law should intervene. By and large, as that saddle-borne savant, John Wayne, put it, government should "stay the hell out of people's pants". Legal bans in the past did not stop boys having sex with one another or receiving older men's attentions. The law neither can nor should stop adolescents' striving for experience. It is true that sex, like smoking, can be dangerous to health - even fatal. But since people are always going to have sex (the same not being true with smoking), it is better to confront the dangers openly through education. Criminalising the actions of people considered in many other respects to be old enough to make rational choices, does not help that.

So we are in celebratory mood, then? Actually, no. Though we are against discrimination, we also believe that society is sex-obsessed, and that we are close to worshipping genital friction in a way that societies to come will regard as barmy. Parents, let alone 16year-olds themselves, have to filter a who went through hothouse single-sex thousand and one suggestions, from they need such an odd distraction?

cinema and soap opera scripts to billboards and ballads, that sexual activity is morally neutral and that everyone (else) is doing it - even if real sex is less frequent and comes with a lot of messy and morally-important choices attached. It is our sex-saturated society, not the intervention of the law, that makes life complicated for teenagers today. But it is still the case that they are likelier to live through the difficulties and enjoy balanced and full lives if they don't smoke in the meantime.

#### A symptom of deep disquiet

bright spark in Bowness yesterday ▲ launched a submarine on Windermere. So here we are at the side of the most magnificent lake in England - its tree-fringed shores the inspiration of poets and painters, with every path to the water's edge offering fresh vistas across mountain and fell - and we shut our eyes. Or virtually: the lake is deep and dark and submarine visibility is likely to be no more than a couple of metres. It's an intriguing touristic development. You travel to the Alps to spend time inside the St Gotthard Tunnel or visit the Grand Canyon with a blindfold on. Is Lakeland now so familiar to visitors that

#### • LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

#### **Safeguards** on patenting of genes

The body in ("The body in Culestion is mine".10 July) is worried that, if the directive on gene patenting to be debated in the European Parliament this week is passed it will lead to patenting of body parts. This is not the case. The directive would expressly prohibit such a situation.

The Legal Affairs Committee voted overwhelmingly for an amendment which states: "The human body, at the various stages of formation and development, and the simple discovery of one of its elements including the sequence or partial sequence of a gene cannot constitute patentable inventions."

This is a significant clarification over the present position, under which it is perfectly possible that the scenario that she envisages will come about. Those who are worried about the possible commercialisation of genetics should be lobbying hard to see the directive in place. The European Parliament's proposals will put in Nce valuable safeguards -heluding an ethical committee charged with ensuring appropriate application of scientific advances for the benefit of human health, and a restriction on the scope of patentable inventions to exclude, for example, patents involving human embryos, which would be potentially patentable under

existing European patent law.
Whether or not Myriad genetics is granted a patent on the BRCA 1 gene will be determined by application of existing statute. Even if it is, the price that it is able to charge will not be entirely a matter of its own choosing. Unlike the situation in the US, where a free market applies. pharmaceutical prices are negotiated by the Department of Health with the pharmaceutical industry. Efforts to ensure that genetic tests developed by commercial companies are available to those who need them at a price that the NHS can afford are therefore better directed at the Department of Health, whether or not the European Parliament votes for the directive on Tuesday. ALASTAIR KENT Director Genetic Interest Group London EC1

Sir: The religious leaders' objections to the European directive on the protection of biotechnological inventions are

misguided (letter, 14 July). The directive allows the patenting of genes (sequences of DNA which code for proteins). These in no way constitute "life", as your correspondents seem to think. They are just chemicals. If genes are life, and that is all we are, what place is there for our "souls", which

they presumably propose we have? They ignore the fact that a large number of patients' groups representing people suffering from genetic conditions support the directive, as the only way to encourage investment in tests and treatments for diseases they suffer

If patenting is not allowed, then trade secrecy will ensue. It is that which will restrict communication between companies, not patenting. The point of a patent is that an inventor can go public, safe in the knowledge that their intellectual property is safe and their investment protected.

It is ethically inept to regard patent law as the forum for



regulation of genetic technologies. What is needed is separate, wellthought-out restrictions on the research and application of the new genetics, not a ham-fisted combination of patent law and theology.

ADAM HEDGECOE Centre for Professional Ethics University of Central Lancashire

#### Heal our ruined countryside

Sir: One hundred thousand country people visited London to try to persuade the rest of us that if hunting with hounds is banned the countryside will no longer be maintained as we know and love it, and that a whole traditional way of life will be lost for ever. One would have more sympathy with them if they had shown as

much concern when intensive farming first hit the countryside when fields were scarred by huge "factory" sheds built to incarcerate the animals which had previously roamed there. With the advent of factory farming the jobs of stockmen and farm hands were lost and farming methods which had evolved over generations, enabling men and animals to live in harmony, were abolished almost overnight

There were no protests from the nunting folk until their pleasures were threatened. JOAN HAGGARD Harpenden, Hertfordshire

Sir: At last, there is some hope that farming will lead naturally to a healthy and distinctive landscape, as it did until the post-war era

("Europe to end farms madness", 9 July).

The past 50 years have been a disaster for the English countryside. We need to recognise that the continuing loss of historic landscape features can no longer be sustained, and to give them an equivalent level of protection to that enjoyed by other aspects of ou

heritage.
In the 1950s and 1960s historic buildings were being destroyed at an astounding rate. Nowadays planning regulations, particularly the listing of buildings, prevent this. The reform of the Common Agricultural Policy to "support traditional extensive farming" affords an opportunity to protect what remains of the English landscape. It should be as nearly impossible to grub out a 16thcentury hedgerow as it is to pull down a Georgian street. THOMAS DENNY Hinton St Mary, Dorset

Sir: The European Commission's draft proposals for radical reform of the notorious Common Agricultural Policy ("Europe to end farms madness", 9 July) show a welcome streak of common sense.

Their emphasis on shifting away from the wasteful intervention and farm price support systems and replacing them by direct payments to farmers reflects what the National Consumer Council and others have been advocating for over 10 years. Such a shift would release every family in the EU from the expensive multiple burden of the CAP - artificially high food

prices, lower-quality produce and reduced choice - which costs

British families over £20 a week. But consumers should not hold their breath. It is a long haul from a draft Commission proposal to getting such radical change through the Council of Agricultural Ministers, which in practice sponsors the interests of farmers. Previous attempts at fundamental reform of the CAP have foundered

tinkering and tweaks. If the Commission's plans are to stand any real chance of coming through the EU policy-making machinery intact, that machinery must itself be reformed so that the farming lobby isn't the only influential voice. RUTH EVANS

at this hurdle, to be replaced by

National Consumer Council London SWI

Sir: Let him who is without subsidy cast the first stone. The Rev David E Flavell writes: "Every other business [than farming] has to make a living without subsidy and hand-outs" (Letters, 11 July).

I certainly subsidise the wages and running costs of Ripon diocese. The buses that pass his door in Peterlee are subsidised by people like me in the deep rural areas of County Durham that were forsaken by buses and trains before 1974. If farming didn't receive

subsidies the real price of food would be payable by the reverend gentleman. PHIL HUGHES Bowes, Co Durham

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056;

e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be

edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

#### Earthly bosses of God's workforce

Sir: There is a glorious element of farce when a judge tells a dismissed curate that his employer is God and 'I don't think you have an address for him so you will not be able to serve any documents" (report, 12 July). When I decided civil

disobedience was the strongest way could, as a matter of conscience, make a point about the injustice to the poor of the Poll Tax and refused to pay it, the authorities were not so vague. Wycombe district council, of heavenly insight, found the address of my employer and served an attachment-of-earnings order. In a fit of hubris, the Church Commissioners obliged. The Bishop humbly accepted the advice that it was nothing to do with him! The Rev PAUL NICOLSON Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire

Political pope

Sir: Both Austin Pielou (Letters, 5 July) and C Watson (10 July) miss the point about Pope Hadrian IV. Yes, Hadrian was English, but when the English King Henry II requested the Pope's support and blessing for an invasion of Ireland, Hadrian conspicuously did not give either. Instead he "granted" Ireland to Henry on the (dubious) authority of a (supposed) legacy from the Emperor Constantine under which all islands off the coast of Europe belonged to the Papacy.

Henry, newly crowned king of England, could not accept Hadrian's generosity and thus cknowledge that Ireland was the Pope's to grant and to take away, without acknowledging the Pope's similar sovereignty over Ireland's larger neighbour. The whole affair should thus be seen in the context of the centuries-long struggle between Church and Crown. Of course Hadrian was politically motivated, but his game plan held no place for petty nationalisms. IOĤN COSGROVE Troon, Cornwall

#### Ethic of idleness

Sir: Your readers who enjoyed Suzanne Moore's superb anti-we piece ("I don't want to be in Labour's chain gang", 11 July) may be interested to know that there does indeed exist a publication dedicated to exploring the very issues she touches on.

The Idler magazine - the title comes from Dr Johnson's series of essays of the same name - was founded four years ago with the intention of questioning the Protestant work ethic. At the time we were opposed to the emphasis put on full employment by the Tories; now our concerns are even more appropriate as a paternalistic Labour government introduces pernicious welfare-to-work schemes

I hope your readers will forgive us this plug. Our defence is that Suzanne Moore did ask the question, "Who will strike out against the new work ethic on the grounds that it is neither ethical nor workable?" The answer is, us. TOM HODGKINSON Editor, 'The Idler' London EC1

#### Gambling policy undermined

Sir: Your report "Casinos turn the tables after Lottery setback" (12 July) makes no reference to the Gaming Board's call for an independent review of gambling. This a matter of some urgency and must involve all aspects of

gambling, including betting. There is conclusive evidence that the casualties from gambling are largely determined by the total amount of gambling occurring and the social pressures encouraging excess. Officially, the policy still is to provide gambling facilities on the basis of unstimulated demand. In practice, this has been undermined by the last government's precemeal deregulation". This was done without serious consideration of the long-term consequences for punters and their families. It is vital that there should be a coherent public policy on gambling. DI E MORAN FRCP FRČPsich The National Council on Gambling

London N14

#### A city built without design

Sir: Reading Jack O'Sullivan ("The bean-counter's contract", 10 July) on the subject of design-and-build, one might assume there had been a consistent approach to architectural procurement at Cambridge University that is now threatened.

Not true. The process in the past two decades has been haphazard and amateur. "Grandees of British architecture" have striven successfully in terms of the brief. but too often with indulgence in cost terms. Design-and-builders have also received commissions under-spending perhaps but also under-designing. The academic community is

unable to get its architecture procurement act together and has et to recognise the urban design field - the result in part of the jealously guarded independent roles of college, department and University. Such separation is a recipe for fiscal extravagance and

uneven quality.

If Cambridge is unable to rework its structure to obtain an informed. professional overview, extravagances, irrelevancies and discord will continue. DAVID OWERS Cambridge

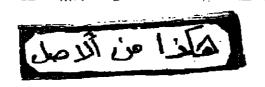
Banking secrecy

Sir: Each month I pay by standing order an amount of money to my daughter's bank account. Like our correspondent M A Qavi (letter, 14 July). I have been able to compare dates on the two bank statements. There is always a period, often of five days and sometimes up to nine, when the money is neither in my account nor in hers. Where does the money go? Who owns it? Who receives the interest? My bank has never given me an answer, Can anyone offer a justification? Dr I R McLAUGHLIN Uley, Gloucestershire

Damp squib

Sir: Having read so much about Pride and Prejudice (BBC 1) in your pages, but missed it the first time round, I was anxious to catch Mr Darcy in his wet shirt on the repeal showing on Sunday. Was that it?

ROSALINDA JONES **YORK** 



# Law yer \_ coul ist the

# Midnight's children stay silent

Fifty years after India's independence, there is no buzz of anticipation, no eagerness to celebrate the end of the Raj. Peter Popham in Delhi looks at the reasons behind a muted jubilee

will be very pleased to be proved wrong, but India's Golden Jubilee party is shaping up to be a damp squib. No celebrations of any sort have occurred so far. The government explains this by saying that, while other countries may choose to celebrate during the 50th anniversary year, India's celebrations will only begin after the completion of 50 years of independence. They will start, therefore, on 15 August, and continue for a year. So far, so pedantic. The period of celebration

is of course for the government to choose though it leaves them limping along behind other countries such as Britain and the United States, where the festivities have been in full swing for months, despite their having on the face of it less reason to celebrate. But more significant than the timing is the national mood, if one can presume to identify such a thing. The anniversary is only a month away, but there is no perceptible buzz. There is no sense of fevered preparations. Indians do not raise the subject in conversation in tones of happy anticipation. Rather it is the foreigner who raises it queryingly, and the Indian who shoots the topic down with a few

So far the only imaginative idea for celebrating the country's birthday has come from the m in Simla, who wants to turn the clock back to the days when the town was the British Raj's summer capital, with rickshaws, cricket. May Queen beauty contests, Shakespeare. Two cavils: Simla has arguably been damaged beyond saving by an exploding population and the chronic weakness of planning controls. Any number of rickshaws and May Queens will not disguise the despoliation. And isn't this more a celebration of dependence than the opposite?

What else is on offer? The Ministry of Science and Technology seems hell bent on installing a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Antarctica. They have not yet been given the nod; and exactly why they want to do this - unless it's a way of driving home the fact that the old man's ideas have long

been consigned to the deep freeze - is never spelt out. Large throngs are not expected for the unveiling. There will be none of the usual problems with crowd control. In fact, if the government finally screws up its determination and agrees, the event should pass off in complete oblivion.

In India itself, meanwhile, over the anniversary period, there will be much huffing and puffing, and many motions will be laboriously gone through. Major buildings will be illuminated for two days, unless the usual power cuts intervene.

Historic events will be re-enacted. The adoption of the "Quit India Resolution" of 1942 will be re-enacted in Mumbai (Bombay). In Delhi, parliament will rehearse the events of the night of 15 August 1947, listening to recordings of the speeches of Gandhi and Nehru. The national anthem will be played (twice). There will be a speech by the aged president, Dr Shanker Dayal Sharma. All will then depart.

Why, as it appears, does no one feel impelled to set off a million fireworks, to light bonfires from one end of the country to the fire to Delhi's River Yamuna (easily done, one imagines), to throw the biggest party in the nation's history? Why is everyone going about their business as if praying that the date will pass off with the least possible embarrassment?

everal answers suggest themselves, some more or less sound or ignoble than others: 1) Congress, the party which fought for independence for decades and ruled unchallenged until only a few years ago, is out of power. Worse, it is in a state of advanced debilitation. Independence was Congress's achievement. Were the party still in power, the rose-flavoured sherbet

would flow all night. The present crowd has no wish to splash good money around celebrating the work of political enemies. (They are too busy contriving ways of stealing it, the local cynics mut-ter.) Mean, parochial, possibly true.

2) For a country as vast and ancient as India,

there is arguably some resistance to the idea of drawing attention to the fact that it was so recently unfree; that its hundreds of millions were for hundreds of years controlled by the guile of a few thousand white men; and that its freedom schieved not by violent insurrection, not in the catharsis of a putsch, but by the clerk of the British parliament declaring, in Norman French, "Le roi le veult" - "the King wishes it".

Even after that, free India was still sufficiently in thrall to English manners and tricks to offer the governor-generalship to Lord Mountbatten (who graciously accepted). Only in 1950 did they shake themselves out of this torpor and declare themselves a republic.

3) Diffidence about the jubilee reflects the mixed feelings at the time, the violent mix of joyful and tragic events that occurred in mid-Angust 50 years ago. The declaration of independence, the raising of the national flag, the resounding (and still moving) "Tryst with Destiny" speech made by Nehru, the gathering of a quarter of a million people the following day at the Red Fort to cheer - all these happy rites were followed within days by the horrors of Partition, the mass migrations, and the communal murders (up to a million people are believed to have died) as huge numbers of Muslims headed for Pakistan and equally vast numbers of Hindus and Sikhs headed for India. Partition, for which most Indians still blame Britain's policy of divide and rule, cast a huge shadow over the new nation.

Churchill had said (echoing Bismarck on Italy): "India is an abstraction. India is no more a political personality than Europe. India is a geographical term. It is no more a united nation than the Equator." India's nationhood only ever made sense as the unity of hundreds of millions of people with far more differences

game is the city of Bath most

associated? If that question

people would plump for

rugby union, but a good

secondary case could be

made for boules, because

Queen Square is taken over

for a three-day boules event

place in Bath and a lot more

Bath Boules started a few

years ago as a simple festive

food and drink people - the

thing organised, aptly, by

fun than anything ever described in Jane Austen's

once a year the elegant

which is as much fun as

anything that ever takes

came up in a pub quiz, most

- of culture, religion, language, custom - than similarities. Congress's achievement in the period leading up to independence was to give life to this improbable dream of nationhood. Partition at once presented the awful possibility that the whole thing could simply unravel.

4) Most fundamentally, people say to each other, "What is there to celebrate, after all?" Instead of having a party, India would be better advised to go into mourning. Fifty per cent of the male population today remain illiterate, and 70 per cent of women. Communal politics ste violence are endemic in many parts of the country. Corruption is everywhere.

Poverty remains rampant, and the illiterate poor he knew something they didn't. parts of the country. Corruption is everywhere.

continue to multiply as only they know how. The environment is in an advanced state of degradation. Six years after taking the first steps towards liberalisation, the economy continues to grow with painful slowness. Little rebellions pop off across the map like flashbulbs. What on earth is there to cheer about?

While India celebrated in Delhi on the night of 15 August 1947, the father of the nation, Gandhi, was far away in Calcutta where he had been doing what he could to caim the communal riots. Across India hundreds of thousands spent the night singing and rejoicing. Gandhi

Calcutta celebrate the end of British rule Photograph: Berthie H. "

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in 1947 **Hulton Getty** 



n the flood of Raj nostalgia engulfing the 50th anniversary of Indian independence, it is often forgotten that Pakistan was founded at the same time. Some might imagine that that is because there is little to celebrate.

Since the world's first state specifically created for Muslims was born in the blood and destruction of Partition, Pakistan has fought and lost three wars against India, surrendering its eastern half to independence as Bangladesh in 1971. Pakistan is rated as among the most corrupt countries in the world, with billions of aid dollars being squandered while illiteracy and child mortality get worse. And it remains politically unstable: not once in half a century has one elected government peacefully succeeded another.

This instability has muted the commemoration of Pakistan's golden jubilee. The interim

government that took over last November, after Benazir Bhutto had been dismissed as prime minister by executive fiat for a second time, decided that it had neither the inclination nor the authority to decree lavish celebrations. Nawaz Sharif, who won the subsequent election, had other priorities. "Pakistan is not celebrating this event the way the UK is celebrating," says Samina Parvez of the Pakistani high commission in London. "We are

doing so in a more humble manner. A cabinet meeting in Islamabad this week will complete plans for an official reception next month, and memories of British rule will be stirred when the Queen visits Pakistan in October. Later this year a controversial film on the life of Mohammed Ali Jinnah, who almost single-handedly brought the country into being, will be released and there have been private celebrations

crashing around my system so much since ..." Terry told

me, looking for a parallel.

played boules here," said

Alison. It really was that

tense. Then there came a

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Crescent Hotel, who were

It was about this time that

I recognised Jeremy Guscott

rose and the tension eased

slightly thereafter. We knew,

though, that we still had the toughest opponents in our

than we had lost, so we

we found that we had

moment about midday when

"Since we last came and

and sports tournaments; but, say Mrs Parvez, "It is not going to very elaborate. A lot of people think it is better to spend money on schools and hospitals." As in India, many memories of

Partition are painful, but Pakistan has an additional reason for mixed feelings about the anniversary. Every such occasion reminds the country of its unresolved identity as a Muslim state. From the beginning there has been tension between those who insist that the Koran should be the only statute book and those who believe that Islam should not be called upon by governments to justify themselves, particularly when they have been so numerous and so venal as they have been in Pakistan. It is not a conflict that ceremonial can cure.

Raymond Whitaker



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**ZURICH** 

Zare is Municipal to a trading name of Zareh Life Assessor Company Limited, which is populated to the Personal Investment Authority, for the measurement and investment humbrais and to a member of the Assessor of Brench Investment and to a member of the Assessor of Brench Investment of Darech Life only and does not precise functional article.

The second secon

local Beaujolais Restaurant and Great Western Wines was that we strode out into and, amazingly, it still is. The the dawn of Sunday 13 July, Beaujolais is a real French our reflexes sharpened by restaurant, run by an extrovert Frenchman called Jean-Pierre Auge. In fact, there are French restaurants all over Bath and lots of real Frenchmen living in Bath, usually called Patrick or Philippe or Thierry, who seem to take it in turns to run them, and all of whom emerge at Bath Boules time to defend the honour of their

national game.

For Boules, you need bottle (and effect, a battle between the pubs, restaurants and hotels of Bath (and Bristol and beyond these days - where will it end?) and it must be the hardest day of the year for anyone to get a meal in the area, as all the best chefs, waiters and bottle-pullers get the day off, and those who are left are probably embittered at not being selected for the team. As the lone media representative player I saw all this from close quarters, and as there were no spare French waiters available, I engaged my old mate, Python Terry Jones, to bring his wife Alison down from London to see that there was life outside the pages of Time Out. And so it

> ice-cold hangovers. We felt like knights striding out ready to do battle. Queen Square might have been made for some sort of medieval tournament. The green lawns are crisscrossed with gravel paths which, when subdivided, make superb bonles pistes. Add a marquee, a wine bar, sunshine, and hordes of



Miles Kington

fired-up Frenchmen and it of iousting.

Every game is played up to nine points, and you cannot believe how alarming the tension becomes when both sides are within sight of a winning total. Boules isn't just a game - it's a tiny piece of theatre, a series of fourminute dramas within which you can get sudden death, vicious disappointment, incredible joy and retribution. If the ancient Greeks had had boules, they wouldn't have bothered to invent classical tragedy.

really does make you think

walking round the square, pushing a baby chair with his good hand. His other arm, of course, had been broken by a South African. And it occurred to me that boules is almost the only outdoor sport where having a broken arm can be no handicap. Many players, in fact, hold something in their nonplaying hand to balance themselves, and in the case of the Royal Crescent Hotel, when we finally met the three young men representing that august establishment, it was ice-cold "I haven't felt adrenalm

holding. It is just possible that this may have affected their reflexes and contributed to their undoing – at any rate, we beat them

9-6 and, much to our. mortification, qualified for the quarter-finals. What was mortifying about this was that we had assumed that qualification was out of the question and Terry and Alison had planned to get the next trainer back to London. Off they went, and I conscripted Jean-Pierre and Philip Addis, the two organisers, as my team. To their intense relief we lost narrowly to Lucknam Pack Hotel, who went on to the final to meet - and be . .. defeated by - the Beaujolais Restaurant. Yes, the French had come out on top again, honour was satisfied, and . civic unrest and widespread rioting in the volatile French community had been

averted. The heavens opened a few minutes after the final. "You have never seen the square cleared so quickly," a witness told me. But I wasn't there. I was already back home by then. I was out in the garden. practising for next year.

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## Lawyers, watch out - court fees are just the beginning

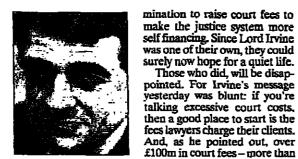
hen Lord Irvine talks, as he did in the Lords Y yesterday, of "fat cat lawyers", he knows what he is talking about. Until the election, he had one of the most successful - or, as he put it modestly yesterday, "entirely satisfactory" - practices at the London bar. But this will hardly make his message any more palatable to many lawyers. For the message was that rather than railing at an increase in court fees agreed by his predecessor, they should look at the fees they themselves charge - which give "a signif-icant number" of QCs earnings of £1m a year. Last night's speech in the Lords told us a lot about the kind of lord chancellor Irvine intends to be.

Not long after Margaret Thatcher came to power she had an illuminating row with her lord chancellor, Lord Hailsham, about Sir John Donaldson's appointment as master of the rolls. It was widely believed that Sir John had been kept off the Court of Appeal by the 1974-79 Labour government, to pay him back for what it had seen as his union-bashing role as chairman of the National Industrial Relations Court during the Heath administration. Thatcher was determined to compensate him. Overruling Hailsham's recommendation - that Lord Brightman was a better qualified candidate - she told him: "Go back and tell your judges that the Prime Minister appoints the Master of the Rolls."

In theory, the Lord Chancellor is directly responsible for appointing judges only up to and including the High Court. In

iably takes the advice of the lord chancellor on the most senior appointments as well. Irvine is famously a close friend, mentor and political ally of Tony Blair. How many of his predecessors not only chaired some of the most sensitive cabinet committees in office, but also took part in key campaign strategy meetings in the run-up to the general election? But his pivotal political role obscures the other great source of his power: his influence over the administration of justice, including, but not confined to, the appointment of the judiciary.

The Inns of Court were alive with the popping of champagne corks when Labour's victory installed Tony Blair's old pupil master on the Woolsack. His predecessor, Lord Mackay. had been cheerfully hated by large parts of the London legal profession, judges included. Partly this was because of what amounted to professional racism in the English bar. Lord Mackay was not only (like Lord Irvine) a Highland Scot. Much worse (unlike Lord Irvine), he was a Scottish lawyer, and a very eminent one. Partly, of course, it was because Mackay took on the English Bar and its centuries-old addiction to a demarcation line that had made the train drivers' union, Aslef, look like a model of flexibility. Mackay's revolutionary step was to decide that in certain circumstances it was reasonable - and greatly in the interests of the consumer - if solicitors were to speak in court, occasionally displacing barristers. The Bar from the judges down - fought him every inch of the way, and are still fighting. Solicitors didn't like him much, either; Mackay's determination to curb the costs of legal aid was widely seen as weakness, a failure to do what they conceived to be his proper job, which was to act as the profession's full-time trade union



Donald **Macintyre** 

Lord Irvine has already bared his liberal credentials by striking out the question aimed at

establishing whether aspiring QCs

> are gay property or stop our houses from being reduced to ashes. But we don't argue that we have a constitutional right not to do so. The subliminal message in Irvine's speech last night is that if lawyers are so altruistically concerned about the poor, they

pointed. For Irvine's message

yesterday was blunt: if you're

talking excessive court costs,

then a good place to start is the

fees lawyers charge their clients.

And, as he pointed out, over £100m in court fees - more than

half the total - was paid by large

concerns, not by individuals at

all. And they are a "drop in the

ocean" compared for example with the £1.62m of the £1.68m

Maxwell estate that was swal-lowed up in professional fees,

Irvine's argument was that if

litigants don't pay, the taxpayer does; that there are already

exemptions for the poorest on

income support, and that there

is still discretion to waive fees

for other poor litigants.

Michael Howard's savage sentencing policy, it seems

proper to argue, was a crazy waste of public money and an

utterly ineffective way of reduc-

ing crime. But to argue, as some lawyers have done, that it was

"unconstitutional" for an

elected politician to impose

minimum sentences - as it does,

say, for drunken driving - is

another matter. And as with

sentencing, so with court fees. The Post Office charges us for using the Royal Mail. We pay

charges for prescriptions. True, we don't - yet - have to bung the

police a small percentage every

time they recover our stolen

could start by reducing their own fees. Irvine's radical robustness is unlikely to stop with court fees. On appointments, he has already bared his liberal credentials by insisting on advertising vacant posts for the senior iciary, striking out the questions to aspiring QCs and junior judges aimed at establishing whether they are gay, taking the first step to excluding over-55s from the magistracy (a measure that will widen the class base of JPs) and experimenting with blind magistrates. All this is – relatively – uncontroversial. But on the Mackay reforms to the profession, he also shows little sign of letting up.

He is known to be impatient with the unwieldy, senior-judge-dominated, statutory committee that took nearly six years to decide that lawyers employed by the Crown Prosecution Service could, if properly qualified, appear in court - but only if led by a senior outside counsel. If Barbara Mills, the Director of Public Prosecutions, were to apply to the committee for such lawvers to appear in their own right, and if it were to try similar delaying tactics, it's not impossible that Irvine would simply bring in primary legislation and abolish the

committee altogether. Last night's speech was no doubt a preliminary skirmish. It was a tough message, and there remains a valid case for arguing that exemptions for lower-income litigants should be extended more widely than at present - for example, to those on jobseekers or disability allowances. But those who thought that Lord Mackay's ability to use his authority to stand up to the legal profession was a passing abernegotiator in the Cabinet. So was his deter- ration, may have misjudged his successor.

## Politicians practise the art of patronage by Robert Winder

he arts – of all things are front-page news again. A blizzard of recent events and announcements has raised once again the familiar litany of vexed questions about how we should patronise our creative types. The Department of National Heritage is changing its name to one more in keeping with the dynamic new times (it is now the Department for Culture, Media and Sport) and hinting that the Arts Council's days as Britain's sponsor-inchief might be numbered.

The head of HarperCollins-Anthea Disney - has sparked off a squabble in the book trade by firing 106 writers who failed to honour their contracts, which inevitably provoked a lot of grave talk about philistine corporate values.

New Labour's high table has committed itself enthusiastically to the extravagant Millennium Dome, even to the extent of creating the first New Labour fat cat, Mark McCormack, by appointing him as its chief fund-raiser. And now comes news of a "creative task force", to be headed by Sir David Puttnam and Richard Branson, who will "champion" the cause of creative endeavour in a country supposedly famous for neglect-ing its artists.

As always, the true picture is muddier than the clean lines of caricature permit. Anthea Disney is a shade unlucky to have been made the emblem of the book trade's nasty desire to channel the flow of books, to turn a broad, mazy river into a winner-takes-all waterfall. In truth, the world might just go on turning without some of the titles she has pledged to stem

- books about cookery and pets, for instance. But it is true (alas) that the desire for fewer books is a surprisingly common one among modern publishers.

The great number of new titles produced annually (70,000 each year in Britain, and rising) certainly is an inconvenience - it's lots of books to hump around, a lot of titles to catalogue, a lot of authors to keep up with. But is plentifulness and a wide choice a bad thing? Can publishers truly promise, as they condense their list, to retain the great books and ditch only the rubbish? Not many would have the if capitalism managed to achieve bloodlessly what com-munism had to kill millions to obtain – a narrow culture dominated by a few mass-market

The various political initiatives of recent days might, in this context, seem like good news. For too long, the case goes, our creative artists and designers have been neglected. David Puttnam, for one, has sung this song many times. But he of all people should know, from his unlucky experiences in the film industry, that money-



In the frame: (clockwise from top left) Vivienne Westwood, Damien Hirst, Swampy, Naomi Campbell, the Spice Girls

#### An uncomfortable truth is that the arts depend on prosperity in the high street. Someone's got to buy the damn books

equals-art is not a straightforward equation.

ditch a jaded, snotty word like the arts - ruthless profit-and-"Arts" in favour of a vibrant one loss accounting, or government like "Culture". Of course the new government should surf along on the excitable wave of the times; should look forward, nerve. It really would be ironic not back. Opportunity, not obligation, as Tony Blair might say. The future, not the past. Anticipation, not antiquities. Full stops, not commas. Slogans, not sentences. That's all

> But will it work? Generous government intervention is always going to play a key role when it comes to grand civic on adversity as often as she projects such as the Dome; does on whole-hearted projects such as the Dome; does on whole-hearted and government plays an applause and support. There is inescapable role, too, in shoring up unprofitable but worthwhile aesthetic adventures, be they rap evenings for black women in Solihull, or

Opera House in Covent Gar- transformation in the once-Of course it makes sense to den. But both approaches to featherbedding - tend to be grandiose, both assume that it is possible to predict, centrally, what will work out there in the bookshops and theatre queues and art galleries. Both, it hardly needs adding, are pretty much bound at some point to trip over the infuriatingly unreliability of artistic energy.

It's annoying, but there really seems to be no budgeting for spirited work: the Muse moves in mysterious ways and thrives no doubt, for instance, that Britain's creative industry has thrived in the past decade or so. without any visible encouragement or support from govern-

£213m makeovers for the ment. Waterstone's effected a dowdy world of books; British fashion is everywhere the rage: Britpop and the Spice Girls come booming out of transistors all over the world: British designers have taken the lead in anything involving glass, steel and wood; and the visual arts have rarely been so bracing and adventurous, with annual controversies guaranteed by the assorted pickled livestock and inside-out living rooms in the Tate or the Royal Academy.

Nor is it just the so-called "arts" that have buzzed into life. There have been some good-sized intellectual upheavals busily brewing, he they feminist - the me-me power play represented by the Spice Girls - or environmental: see under Swampy. There have been new newspapers, new buildings, new comedians, even new ways to dance the night

Is it ironic that all of this blossomed under what some of its enthusiasts might have called the Tory jackboot? Some might think so. Or they might argue that it was the very spirit of opposition that brought all these new modes of expression flaring into life. That might be true, too. But a more uncomfortable truth is that what all of these things depend on in particular is prosperity in the high street. Someone's got to buy all the damn books and records. after all. Even what we might call protest culture is driven by cash. The whole world of clubbing and raves, with its Ecstasy tabs and its Irvine Welshey. might seem defiantly hedonistic and utopian, but actually it relies on young people having the kind of pocketfuls of money that no previous generation

has ever enjoyed. The culture of protest, these days, is quite an expensive habit. Much the same could be said about fashion: if you want to spend a hundred quid on a bin liner with holes in it, fine. But it isn't only a "creative" ges-

Of course it would be fatuous for Tory Britain to claim this flood of innovative energy as some sort of reflection of its flair, but it might be a mistake also to see it as something that can easily be planned.

The most important aspect in the patronage of art is humility - a recognition that the finest work often sprouts in the shadiest and most neglected corner of the garden. In the fairy tale, the villagers sell the goose that lays the golden eggs for less than it is worth - they are too dumb and greedy to appreciate its real value. But there are an awful lot of ways to cook a goose. The pompous urge to tame, cage and promote it - he it corporate, and motivated by a desire to streamline the profit flow; or political, and driven by glory-seeking almost always ends in tears. The goose will still have soft feathers - it would make a good pillow. But what if it does not glisten any more?

## How to stop the massacre of innocents

Children may be victims of war but, says Jenny Kuper, international law can help to protect them

he most enduring images of cer-tain armed conflicts are photographs of children: young Kurds fleeing to the snowy mountains of northern Iraq after the 1991 Gulf War, stone-throwing Palestinian children of the intifada; Mozambican boy soldiers almost dwarfed by their guns; a naked Vietnamese girl screaming from the any wrong-doing. The pain of papalm burns. Yet even when pain of napalm burns. Yet even when the media are not publicising such images, every day children somewhere are involved, as civilians or as soldiers, threatening behaviour. in armed conflict. These armed conflicts are almost always non-international or "civil" wars, as in Sudan. Afghanistan, parts of the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda and Sri Lanka. The categorisation and scale of the armed conflict, however, matter little

to those who are caught up in it.
While it is well known that children are often particularly affected by armed conflict, it is perhaps less well known that there is a substantial body of law and related enforcement procedures that aim to provide some protection specifically for children in those situations. Recent events have highlighted some of them. For example, there has been the unedifying spectacle of UN peacekeepers from various Western countries (Belgium, Italy and Canada) being tried before military courts for ill-treating civilians in Somalia. A number of those civilians were children.

The Belgian case was particularly shocking, in that some of the incidents were photographed by a former para-trooper who was a member of the unit involved. One photograph, published in a framework of rules to safeguard nona number of newspapers, showed two combatants in civil wars; and the 1966

with the flames perilously close to his naked skin. Even more shocking is the fact that, in their recent soldiers were acquitted of not guilty of torture, assault and battery or even They were simply "participating in a playful game meant to discourage the child from stealing. This truly astounding

decision flies in the face of repugnant on purely hum-

anitarian grounds. Would the Belgian court have found the soldiers' behaviour equally "playful" if the child being dangled over the fire had been white, and Belgian? In any event, the court's decision is contrary to rules set out in numerous international legal treaties to which Belgium is a party. These include the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, which prohibits torture and other "degrading treatment or punishment" of children (Article 37) and obliges governments to "take care of children who are affected by an armed conflict" (Article 38). court will be obliged to take into Other relevant international treatics could include the 1949 Geneva Convention IV, concerning the protection of civilians, which, in Article 3, sets out



Photograph: Frank Spooner the arrest of these war law, as well as being according to a military court

International Covenant on Civil and step towards some sort of justice. Political Rights, which prohibits torture and other ill-treatment of any person (Article 7), and calls for special protection for children (Article 24).

In the coming months the Belgium military court is scheduled to hear cases involving charges that Belgian soldiers in Somalia force-fed a boy pork and salt water until he vomited, and kept another boy, accused of stealing, for two days in a closed metal container, where he died. It is to be hoped that, this time around, the account the many applicable rules of international law, and adopt a radically different approach.

A more positive indication of the possible effectiveness of international law in providing some protection or as those in El Salvador, Lebanon and Oxford University Press.

others) in situations of armed conflict was the recent surprise arrest, by British special forces, of two Bosnian war crimes suspects, one of whom died in the process. In fact, many victims of war crimes committed in the formet Yugoslavia were' children: adolescent boys rounded up and incarcerated in the notorious concentration camps; girls as young as five raped, and many other children killed or injured as a consequence of the crimes suspects is a small

Moreover, in a number of armed conflicts in recent years there has been evidence of a greater observance of international law for the protection of children and other civilians. In the 1991 Gulf War, for example, the Allies' coalition repeatedly referred to the need to avoid "collateral damage" and apparently in some instances refrained from attacks where the harm to the civilian population might have outweighed any military advantage. Also during the war, the UN authorised a joint World Health Organisation and United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) mission to Iraq, specifically to provide medical supplies to children

and their mothers. In some other armed conflicts (such

redress for children (and Sudan), Unicef has succeeded in establishing "days of tranquillity". In those situations, agreement was reached that hostilities would cease for periods of a few days in order to immunise children against preventable childhood diseases, or to provide them with food and other necessities. In all those cases, international law and diplomacy were no panacea, but in some of the conflicts, they did save the lives of some children.

International law and its enforce-

ment mechanisms may be widely perceived as inadequate and almost irrelevant in efforts to secure some sort of protection or redress for children caught up in armed conflict. However, as one of the authorities on the laws of armed conflict, Fritz Kalshoven, has written regarding compliance with these laws: "Each even partial success means that a prisoner will not have been tortured or put to death, a handgrenade not blindly lobbed into a crowd, a village not bombed into oblivion; that, in a word, man has not suffered unnecessarily from the scourge of war." To those of us watching the big and little armed conflicts of the world from a safe distance, this may not seem significant. But would we not feel otherwise if it were our child, or father, or sister, whose life was spared by a soldier who, in order to comply with the laws of armed conflict, did not throw that one grenade, or drop that one bomb?

The writer's book, 'International Law Concerning Child Civilians in Armed Conflict', was published last month by

## **DEPARTURES JULY & AUGUST**



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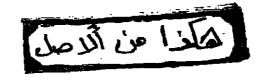
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# OUSINESS & CITY FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

# Pressure on BT to call off MCI deal

Michael Harrison

Telecom's \$20bn (£12bn) merger with MCI appeared to be on shakier ground last night after the US company said it had no intention of renegotiating the terms of the deal following its shock profits warning late last week.

A spokesman for the company, America's second largest long-distance operator, said: "We believe the terms of the merger will remain in place and we expect the merger to move forward as planned."

trageurs, stand to lose huge sums of money - perhaps as much as £1bn - if the merger terms are altered substantially or if the deal is called off

Despite MCI's insistence that the merger will go ahead as an-nounced, a number of BT's largest institutional shareholders have warned that it now has no option but to re-negotiate the terms after MCI warned it could lose \$800m this year on its move into the local US telephone market and as much as \$1bn next year.

Stock market speculators.

Stock market speculators.

otherwise known as arbi
offer price by as much as \$2bn

to compensate. But some analysts are arguing the price should be reduced even further or BT should pull out altogether and pay the \$150m penalty fee

it would incur. The shock profits warning and the apparent stand-off between the two companies is likely to mean fireworks when shareholders gather for BT's annual meeting in Edinburgh tomorrow. What had been billed as a routine, boring agm has suddenly escalated in importance as the BT board frantically prepares to placate

angry shareholders.
Investors will demand to

came so late and so unexpectedly and how BT proposes to modify the terms of the deal.

MCI's two most senior executives - chief executive Bert Roberts and chief operating officer Gerald Taylor - will be at the agm in their capacity as non-executive directors of BT and are likely to face heavy flak from angry shareholders who voted the deal through overwhelmingly three months ago.

The merger agreement gives both sides the right to renegotiate the terms should there be a material change in the cir-cumstances of either company.

know why the profits warning BT's institutional shareholders argue that a profits warning which in effect robs the merged company of any earnings growth for two to three years

should trigger a renegotiation.
However, MCI shareholders,
including a number of "arbs". are likely to argue that the increased pension liabilities BT faces following the abolition of dividend tax credits also amount to a material change. BT estimates that the changes. announced in the Budget, will reduce pre-tax profits by £150m-£200m a year.

The arbs are in a heavily exposed position because of

the way they have sought to exploit the gap between the price of MCI shares and the terms on offer from BT.

BT is paying 5.4 BT shares and \$6 in cash for every MCI share which, before the profits warning, produced a spread of up to 10 per cent between MCI's offer price and its market

The arbs have in effect been buying into BT cheaply by acquiring MCI shares and going short on BT – offering to sell shares they do not own in the expectation of being able to cover their positions when the deal goes through.

had been inundated with frantic calls from arbs last Thursday evening when the profit warning emerged. "We took scores of calls from arbs saying they would be driven into bankruptcy. One of them was almost in tears. He wanted me to tell him

he was just having a bad dream." BT's finance director, Robert Brace, will fly out to the US after the agm, heading up a team that will assess the MCI profit warning and its plans for en-tering the US domestic market and report back on whether the merger terms need amending. BT described reports that it

by 8 per cent last Friday in the wake of the profits warning, while MCI shares were \$2.25 firmer at \$37.25.

named

Adrian Montague, a senior pro-

ject finance specialist with investment bank Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, has been appointed to head the Government's Private Finance Initiative,

the Treasury's PFI Taskforce

next month on a fixed salary of

£160,000. He will be on a two-

year contract and will report to

the Paymaster General, Geof-

sen from a shortlist of three can-

didates, described the job as a

tremendous challenge: "You

do have to feel a desire to help

out in the public sector to hold

a position of this type."

Mr Robinson, who dismissed

Alastair Ross Goobey, the

chairman of the Private Fi-

nance Panel, when Labour came

into power, likened the job to a

thicket through which Mr Mon-

tague would need to dear a path.

Mr Montague will recruit a

team of around eight private

sector project specialists and will

have the responsibility of sign-

ing off commercially viable pro-

jects before they are put out to

frey Robinson.
The 49-year-old banker, cho-

Michael Harrison

PFI head \*

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director of the merged group. Concert, and Tim Price, head of its US telephone business would be forced out. "MCI has a very strong management team," said the spokesman. BT shares closed 16p higher last night at 456.5p having fallen by 8 per cent last Friday in the

"speculation". MCI also played

down suggestions that the two

own suggestions that the finance director Doug Maine, who is due to become finance

Comment, page 19

## ICI shares rise on \$3bn **DuPont** deal

Sameena Ahmad

ICI yesterday sold half of its commodity chemical business to DuPont for \$3bn (£1.8bn), a price far in excess of stock market expectations. Shares in the chemical group jumped 9 per cent to 886p.

Analysts were also surprised at the speed of the sale. In-cluding DuPont, ICI has raised 67 9bn from disposals in just two months since it acquired Unilever's speciality chemicals business for £5bn. In May, ICI said it would raise £3bn from disposals over the next three years to reduce debt following the acquisition.

Analysts said disposing of the remaining industrial chemicals assets could realise at least another £1bn, taking total disposal proceeds to over £4bn.

Charles Miller Smith, ICI's chief executive, said the disposals together with the cent last year, would reduce the Unilever deal "confirms the impact of the strong pound on decisive shift in ICT from a profits. ICI, which exports into one of the world's leading speciality chemicals companies.

We now have a portfolio of world class businesses across our three key areas of coatings. speciality chemicals and materials, which offer wonderful growth prospects, give us much more predictable future earnings and are significantly less capital intensive. We have virtually reached this target [£3bn] less than three months after it

One analyst said "It's a wonderful deal. To have achieved this in such a short space of time is unprecedented. I don't think the scale of the achievement has dawned on us yet."

The disposal announcement vesterday came less than a week after ICI said it would reap £1bn from the sale of its stake in ICI Australia and made property disposals worth around £120m. Mr Miller Smith said there would be further sell-offs over

the next 12 months: "More has

Mr Spall, who estimates a £90m hit from sterling when interim results are reported later this month, said: "At the lighter end of chemicals, manufacturing tends to occur close to customers. We can buy and sell in the same currency." The pro-ceeds should reduce borrowings from around £6bn, cutting gearing by around 20 percentage points to "less than 100 per cent", said Mr Spall and will be

earnings enhancing by 1998. Analysts said the disposal

to be done to ensure a fundamentally different ICI." The disposals to DuPont

comprise ICI's polyester polymer and intermediates business, its titanium dioxide operations outside North America and its polyester film business. Collectively, those businesses had sales of £1.5bn. Another £2bn of sales will disappear from the group when it sells quarrying chemicals and the remaining Tioxide operations as well

ICI said that DuPont had declined to buy North American Tioxide because of monopoly issues, but had agreed to cover the deficit if ICI received less than \$150m.

Allan Spall, ICI's finance di-rector, said that reducing ex-posure to bulk chemicals, which will represent just over a fifth cent last year, would reduce the around a quarter of its sales, has been severely squeezed by h manufacturing costs in the UK. and low selling prices abroad.

price of 1.4 times 1996 sales, was very full". However Peter Cartwright at Williams de Broe said strategy was more impor-tant for DuPont, which will almost double its share of the world market in titanium dioxide, a white pigment used in paints, to over 40 per cent.



Geoffrey Robinson (left) announces the appointment of Adrian Montague (right). He was chosen from a shortlist of

## Euromoney in talks with Disney

**Cathy Newman** 

Euromoney Publications, the publisher and conference organiser, is in the final stages of negotiations to buy Institutional Investor, the US financial magazines group, just weeks af-ter pulling out of the bidding auction after claiming the \$200m (£119m) asking price was

too high Walt Disney, Institutional Investor's parent, asked Euro-money to resubmit its offer after a bost of other bidders that included Pearson also quit the Comment, page 19 | race to buy the company. It is

understood that Euromoney has secured a time-restricted exclusivity agreement with Disney as it attempts to tie up its biggest purchase to date.

Disney had hoped to net up to \$200m by selling the company, but is now believed to be prepared to let it go for around \$150m. There are some reports in the US that Euromoney could get away with paying as little as \$120m.

Sources at Euromoney said the acquisition could well be signed and sealed by the end of the week. If the deal goes ahead, it would expand Euro-

money's revenues and personnel by around 50 per cent. The company would need to take on debt or launch a rights issue to finance the bid, and sources said both options were being con-

Euromoney said, as it annonnced record results last month, that it was keen to acquire, adding that it had £24m in cash and short-term deposits.

The company's acquisition strategy to date has focused on far smaller deals than Institumoney bought a 40 per cent interest in Mondiale Corp, a UK

The BRC's monthly survey

showed sales weakening in

weather-related areas such as

summer clothing, beer and sun creams, thanks to the June

downpours. Electronic items

enjoyed a very good month, and

housing-related areas such as

furniture and DIY were strong.

8.2 per cent in the year to June

compared with 8.3 per cent in

May. On a like-for-like basis

The value of total sales rose

publishing company specialising in the business to-business international office products market for a maximum £4.5m.

Institutional Investor, which publishes a magazine of the same name as well as newsletters, also organises business seminars and conferences and is a direct competitor to Euro-

Euromoney, which is con-trolled by the Daily Mail & General Trust, announced at the end of May that it had in-creased half-year underlying

GDP in the second quarter, due

next week, analysts said. Unless either shows a signif-

icant slowdown, most reckon

the Bank's monetary policy

committee will feel compelled

to act again, perhaps as early as next month's meeting. The currency markets are right to

see the prospect of a further in-

terest rate increase," said David Owen of Kleinwort Benson.

Sterling climbed from just under DM3 to DM3.02 yesterday,

## Strong pound takes £11m off o Thorn profits

Cathy Newman

Shares in Thorn, the beleaguered rentals group, took another battering yesterday and the logic of last year's split from EMI was again questioned after the company's out-going chairman, Sir Colin Southgate, said the strength of the pound would reduce profits this year by around £11m. Immediately after a sometimes stormy annual general meeting, at which Sir Colin warned shareholders that firstquarter turnover had dropped by 8.5 per cent. Thorn's shares plunged 12 per cent to 156p. only 40 per cent of their 408p value after the group's demerger

from EMI last August. The shares closed at 158.5p. Some shareholders attacked the dismal performance of Thorn's share price over the past year. One said: "One gets the feeling that these things [demergers] are not done for the benefit of shareholders, but for the benefit of merchant banks." Another echoed hints from City analysts that new management may be needed to remedy the situation. "Perhaps it would be better] if you had a few scientists on the board, who are used to forward thinking, as opposed to one [a board] full of economists who are used to woolly thinking," he said.

Nick Bubb, analyst at Société Générale, said rumours about the future of Mike Metcalf, chief executive, had been circulating for some months. Management had come under fire for the decision to rent out furniture from Radio Rentals shops, a strategy which has now been abandoned.

However, a spokesman for Thorn hotly disputed specula-tion about Mr Metcalf. He admitted furniture rental had not been successful through Radio Rentals, but said management could hardly be blamed for other problems which had affected the share price, such as litigation in the US. Legal action in Minnesota over allegations of unfair

interest charges on rentals forced the group to reveal a £17.1m provision in May.

Analysts downgraded their profit estimates for the year in the light of Sir Colin's comments. Mr Bubb said his forecasts for pre-tax profits would "drift downwards" from £140m to between £130m and £135m. However, he said he anticipated a significant improvement in profits in the following year, perhaps up to £150m.

Mr Bubb was also confident that Thorn's dividend to shareholders would be maintained. He was cheered by plans announced in May and approved O.

# Thorn share price, pence

at yesterday's special extraor dinary general meeting to return £87m, some 14 per cent of the company's capitalisation, to investors over the next two months.

Other City watchers were not so sanguine, though, with one City analyst saying. "Fhorn is almost beyond salvage as the company is operating in markets

that are structurally in decline."
The analyst called for the closure of up to 200 Radio Rentals outlets. Thorn operates 500. Radio Rentals-branded shops, after closing 90 in April. The company's spokesman said there was an ongoing "very critical review of the Radio Rentals division.

As planned, Sir Colin stepped down yesterday, to be replaced by Hugh Jenkins, deputy chairman.

#### Sterling higher as survey shows dip in retail sales like they are protecting margins rather than market share." tomorrow, and the estimate of

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

FTSE 100

Inflation at the factory gate remained very subdued last month, according to new figures vesterday. But City analysts said a further increase in interest rates was on the cards, and the pound climbed still higher on the foreign exchanges yesterday. Separately, a survey by the

British Retail Consortium showed a slight dip in spending on the high street last month due to the bad weather. It reported "healthy" sales volumes with building society windfall gains filtering through in sales

Nevertheless, the BRC said there was no further need for the Bank of England to dampen

consumer spending.
Adair Turner, directorgeneral of the Confederation of British Industry, said the Budget had missed an opportunity to clamp down on consumer demand. But in a speech last night he said: "Tough though it may be for exporting compa-nies, one of the reasons that sterling is so high is international confidence in the British economy's underlying strength."
Regardless of the fears about

of expensive items such as interest rates, share prices set another record yesterday. The FTSE 100 index ended 58 points higher at 4,857.4, helped by a strong opening on Wall

Prices paid by manufacturers for their materials fell by 0.8 per cent in June, according to official figures yesterday. Much of the decline was due to lower petrol prices, but there was still a 0.2 per cent drop in underlying costs thanks to lower import prices in terms of sterling. Prices charged at the factory

gate fell 0.2 per cent in June. Although their year-on-year rate

of increase edged up, it re-mained low at 1.1 per cent. But "core" output prices, ex-cluding food, drink, tobacco and petrol, rose 0.1 per cent in June. Their annual rate of increase remained unchanged at

0.6 per cent "A key message is the absence of inflationary pressure in man-ufacturing," said Richard Iley at Hoare Govett. Even so, some said the news should have been even better. "Manufacturers might have

been expected to respond by cutting prices more aggres-sively." said John O'Sullivan at NatWest Markets. "It looks

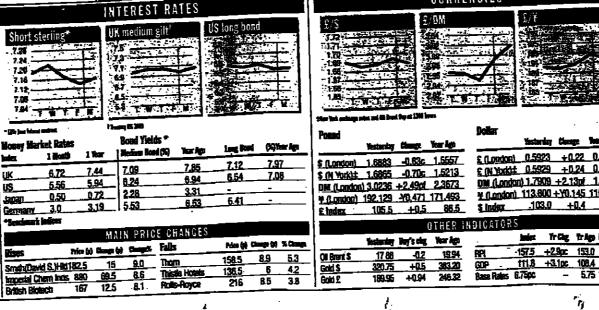
sales growth slipped to 4.5 per while the pound's index against cent from 4.8 per cent. a range of currencies gained 0.5 The Bank of England's next

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STOCK MARKETS





'MCI will get taken

over whether or not the merger with BT goes through. With so many powerful investment banks -

Goldman Sachs, Salomon Brothers and

Merrill Lynch among tham - facing losses. they have an even bigger incentive than usual to find an

alternative bidder

## Risky business, arbitrage, but that's the point

DBT, Sir Peter Bonfield, are not the only ones praying that MCT's profits warning late last week does not prove a deal breaker. It transpires that the investment banking community's various arbitrage departments stand to lose at least \$1bn if the merger fails - probably the biggest arbitrage hit of any deal in recent memory. Risk arbitrage may be a cleaner business than it was when Ivan Boesky ruled the roost, but at least he was well informed.

This was a merger that looked like an arbitrageur's dream. Both MCI and BT are big and very liquid stocks, but the possibility (always more apparent than real) that the Federal Communications Commission might eventually block the deal meant that the value of the deal has never been fully reflected in the MCI share price. As a consequence the arbs have been going massively long of MCI while at the same time "shorting" BT, a spread of approximately 10 per cent should the deal eventually go through.

Paradoxically, the very attractiveness and apparently near-certain rewards of the spread have led some arbs to adopt a more cautious approach. The panic that would set in should the bet go wrong has led some to steer clear of the situation. But most have piled in like there's no tomorrow.

What this probably means is that MCI will get taken over whether or not the merger with BT goes through. With so many powerful investment banks - Goldman Sachs, Salomon Brothers and Merrill Lynch among them -

tive than usual to find an alternative bidder.

Harder to gauge is what effect the arbitrage positions will have on BT's attempt to renegotiate the terms of the deal. Some of MCI's new-found shareholders will be pushing hard for no change in the terms on the grounds that this will destroy their profit. Others will take the view that anything that saves the deal, and heads off calamitous

osses, is worth a try. On this front, however, there seems to be some hardening of attitudes round at MCI itself. MCI directors have already proved their independence and determination of mind by voting through the extra investment in local telecommunications, regardless of anything BT might have to say on the matter. Now there are mutterings from the MCI camp that nothing justifies a renegotiation of the terms since BT has had its own share of unantici-pated costs since the deal was first struck.

These include the windfall profits tax and the double-whammy effect of the abolition of tax credits on dividends. The first effect is to increase the costs of servicing the pension fund by up to £200m a year. The second is either to reduce the yield on the stock or increase the cost to the company of servicing the dividend. Either way, some MCI insiders believe that the unexpected damage at BT since the deal was announced is rather greater than the unexpected damage at MCI.
The dangers of standoff can readily be seen.

and MCI refuses to do so, then the whole thing is going to collapse. It will come as little consolation to the top brass at BT that the monctary damage to the investment banking community of such an outcome is going to be rather greater than their own loss of face.

#### Stock market may have lost touch

There's no better contrary indicator, it would seem, than a survey of fund managers' intentions. On the day that Merrill Lynch flagged a shift in asset allocation from equities into gilts, the stock market reached another all-time high and gilts fell. Bad timing aside, the broker's monthly

survey made interesting reading. According to the study, pension funds have not been so keen on gilts since December 1994, when the yield on government bonds was a rather more attractive 8.5 per cent. Net sellers of UK equities now outnumber net buyers by 18 per cent, the biggest gap for a year. One of the reasons for this is more oner-

ous solvency conditions for pension funds. However, it's not all technical. The outlook for interest rates has deteriorated sharply since Gordon Brown ducked the consumer boom two weeks ago, while the resultant soaraway pound means earnings forecasts for exporters have been reined in this year and If the only way that BT can re-sell this deal to I next. And the abolition of the tax credit has

Many institutions are just fundamentally more bearish about equities than they were. So why is the stock market riding high?

In part it shows what an inadequate measure of the overall stock market the utility and financials-dominated FTSE 100 has now become. The stock market is also being dragged up by the strength of overseas equities, particularly Wall Street, against which London looks cheap. But it might also sug-gests the market has lost touch with reality.

#### ICI's balance sheet ready to bubble

Tharles Miller Smith. ICI's quiet and Slightly nervy chief executive, was in an audacious mood yesterday. He deserved to be. In just two months Mr Miller Smith has pulled off the transformation of ICI from a dull, bulk chemicals giant, battered by sterling and mood swings in the chemicals cycle, to a higher-margin, more predictable and

hopefully better valued beast.
With the disposal yesterday of half ICI's bulk chemicals businesses – titanium dioxide, polyester polymers and polyester films - to DuPont for £1.8bn, he has achieved a fantastically good price given that these were barely profitable concerns. Having paid £5bn for Unilever's highly rated, speciality chemicals businesses in May, Mr Miller Smith was under pressure to cut debt and find buyers for the commodity

ir lain Vallance and his chief executive at facing losses, they have an even bigger incential to take no more than three years to dispose of Lifer of businesses, doubters saw ICI as a forced seller bound to realise poor prices.

Not so. Mr Miller Smith proved he was a fast mover, selling ICI's stake in ICI Australia for Elbn just two months after the Unilever deal. He has also shown that in the chemicals industry a handicap to one company cut be a prize to another. That DuPont's share price held up even though it had paid ICI a princely sum shows not only the quality of ICI's Tioxide technology and the geographic fit, but that in very tough markets, it is worth coughing up the cash to get a leading market position. ICI demonstrated just that when it shelled out for the Unilever businesses. The wife-swapping atmosphere in the chemicals industry suggests that ICI will get a decent price for its remaining bulk chemicals assets such as ethylene, chlorine, chemical quarrying

improve ICT's balance sheet even further. Having sold off almost £2.9hn of businesses in just two months, borrowings will be around half pre-disposal levels and interest cover will be very acceptable at over three times. Even if he struggles to sell the rest, the pressure is now off Mr Miller Smith. And having spent 11 of his 30 years at Unilever managing precisely those businesses he is now left with, investors can feel reassured that the new look ICI is in safe hands. The argument for re-rating ICI is compelling.

and the North American Tioxide businesses

that DuPont chose not to buy. That will

## SFO head calls for new body to beat fraud

Tom Stevenson Financial Editor

The new head of the Serious Fraud Office called yesterday for the creation of a single investigative body to replace the current "fragmented and inefficient" structure, Rosalind Wright, director of the SFO since April, also called for the replacement of the jury system in complex financial fraud trials and the imposition of heavier fines to hit offenders "where it hurts them most - in their pockets."

In a letter to the Attorney General, Mrs Wright criticised the duplication of the current sees responsibility split between the SFO, the Crown Prosecument of Trade and Industry.

Issuing her first annual report since taking the helm at the fraud office. Mrs Wright argued for heavier fines for convicted fraudsters and measures to recover funds that had been salted away in anticipation of conviction. She also recommended the creation of a new "fraud" offence to replace the confusing plethora of conspiracy and dis-honesty offences in force now.

Under the current system, a group of alleged fraudsters can

be charged with conspiracy to defraud, but an individual can only be charged with one of a number of statutory offences.
"This is all very confusing for a iury and unnecessarily complex."

Of the system of trial by jury, Mrs Wright said: "In spite of the SFO's efforts to cut the number of charges, trials have still taken too long." She said she was hopeful the Law Commission would soon recommend a move towards a tribunal system.

While she welcomed the Government's recent decision to combine the various City regulators into a single watchdog based on the Securities and Innot go far enough. "Responsibility continues to be divided tion Service and the Depart- between public bodies and regulatory organisations, whose powers to gather evidence, procedures and punishments all differ," she said.

She said it was time to act on the recommendations of Lord Roskill 11 years ago which had led to the creation of the SFO. He had suggested the creation of a single body with responsibility for major fraud prosecutions. Currently the SFO is limited to the investigation and prosecution of those fraud cases which are "serious and complex".



Rosalind Wright: In favour of replacing jury trials with a tribunal system in financial fraud cases

Other recommendations included giving judges powers currently enjoyed by financial regulators, such as closing down or suspending businesses sus-pected of being fraudulently run. Mrs Wright said judges should be able to impose punitive fines and disqualify fraudsters from soliciting or managing investments by the public.

The need to strengthen antifraud legislation was underlined by figures in the SFO annual re-

port showing an increase in the number of cases of suspected fraud against investors from 29 to 42 during the past year. The SFO said the buoyant economy was a big factor.

"We are disturbed that so many people are being defrauded. It is also noticeable that many of these cases concern investments which are not regulated under the Financial Services Act. Compensation is therefore not available."

## DBS confirms action by PIA

DBS Management, a network fine, which would be the largest of personal financial advisers, said yesterday it had been informed that the Personal Investment Authority (PIA) had started disciplinary action against its DBS Financial Management subsidiary.

Earlier in the day, in response to an article in The Independent, DBS said it had no knowledge of any fine to be imposed on it by the PIA over alleged pensions mis-selling. The article said a £500,000

made by the PIA for a rule breach, was close to being levied by the financial services regulator. The fine would be an embarrassment to Ken Davy, the chairman of DBS, who also sits on the PIA board.

While DBS said it did not know of any fine, it "considers its resources are adequate to cover such a penalty in the event of it being confirmed. It said the article "apparently was based on information ob-

from the PIA".

Shares in DBS, which had initially cased 27.5p yesterday morning, fell further on the secand statement and closed down by 67.5p at 1,077p, a fall of almost 6 per cent.

DBS confirmed its commitment to ensure that any investors who bought personal pensions through its members were properly dealt with under the terms of the pensions review by the Securities and Invest-

tained in breach of confidence ments Board. It said it had made substantial provisions to cover the costs of accelerating the re-

> DBS, based in Hudderstield. represents more than 1,700 independent financial advisers. The company provides compliance and regulatory help in return for a a slice of the com-

mission from each adviscr. The company was founded in the 1970s by Mr Davy and became a network in the 1980s. It floated on AIM two years ago.

#### Iraq's export plans push down oil prices

The price of oil fell yesterday after the United Nations announced the resumption of oil exports from Iraq. Although it was not clear when the "oil for food" aid plan would start, the news prompted a wave of selling on the International Pe-

troleum Exchange. The price of Brent oil futures. the benchmark, fell from \$18,40 a barrel to \$17.92 within 15 min-

to a low of \$17.85 Staffan de Mistura, the UN's representative in Baghdad, said the text of the agreement need-

ed to be finalised. "We believe the process will be concluded by next Monday," he said.

When Iraqi sales resume, it will mark the country's first exports since the end of the Gulf War.

said: "As soon as the news was announced Brent prices began to spiral downwards." It said the volume of trade rose to more than double the recent average

daily trading volume. The oil price was further depressed by confirmation from the German Economics Ministry that it would start selling 50 mil-

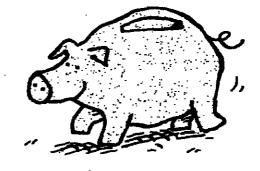
A statement from the IPE oil reserves beginning on 4 Au-

Germany planned to raise around DM400m (£133m) this year and a further DM500m in 1998 from oil sales, a ministry spokeswoman said. The goveroment announced last week it would sell reserves to try to reduce its budget deficit enough to qualify for the single Eurolion barrels from the country's pean currency.





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#### IN BRIEF

#### Ashtead profit share double staff's pay

Four depot managers at Ashtead more than doubled their pay last year after the plant hire group shared out a record £3.1m bonus amongst its workforce of 2.268. The group refused to disclose the actual figures, but the average manager, who earns somewhat over £20,000 a year, saw a 22 per cent uplift from the profit share, with most ordinary employees receiving 10 per cent. The company said it was seeing an increase in market demand for the first time since 1990 as it unveiled a 68 per cent rise in profits to £28.3m for the year to April. Annual dividends are to go up by a fifth to 3.65p a share. Investment column, page 20

#### BAA granted £125m loan for rail link

The European Investment Bank has granted a £125m loan to BAA to support the construction of the Heathrow Express railway link between Heathrow airport and Paddington Station, London. The rail works involved upgrading and electrification of 18km of existing Railtrack line, the construction of a 7km spur, mainly underground to the airport, two new stations and other infrastructure, the bank said.

#### Ascot to start disposal programme

Ascot, the engineering-to-chemicals group, is to embark on a large scale disposal programme in the wake of last years £277m academistrion of Suter, the mini-conglomerate. It is planning to sell C.Rico, its South African fridge business, Presto, which makes cutting tools and Depilex, which sells beauty therapy equipment, within the next few months. Its car parts division is likely to be sold within a year. "I do not like conglomerates and we will make two or three divestments in the second half of the year," said Howard Dyer, chairman, who also announced the appointment of John Grant, former finance director at Lucas Varity, as its new chief Investment Column, page 20

#### British Midland signs deal with Airbus

British Midland has signed a contract for 11 Airbus Industrie A320 and nine A321 jets, Airbus said in a statement. The deal comprises the outright purchase of eight planes and the leasing of the remaining 12 through International Lease Finance Corp. Deliveries will start in spring 1998.

#### Ofwat agrees to licence amendments

Ofwat, the water regulator, has agreed amendments to North West Water's licence to ensure the separation of the business from its sister company Norweb and safeguard the interests of its customers. Both companies are owned by United Utilities. North West Water will conduct its business as though it were substantially the company's only business and a separate company from Norweb.

### **Brent Walker** threatens to sue GrandMet

Andrew Yates

Brent Walker, the debt-laden leisure group, plans to make a fresh legal assault against Grand Metropolitan over the long-running dispute sur-rounding William Hill, one of the largest betting chains in the UK. The move, which could see Brent Walker making a claim for £100m, casts another shadow over GrandMet's proposed

£24bn merger with Guinness. Sir Brian Goswell, Brent Walker's chairman, said yes-terday. "We believe GrandMet should pay us interest on the amount we overpaid for William Hill. Unless we can reach a settlement quickly, and there is no sign that we can do so, then we will take the matter to the courts."

It is the latest twist in a longrunning legal wrangle that stems from Brent Walker's £685m acquisition of William Hill in 1989. Brent Walker claimed that GrandMet overstated William Hill's profits and that therefore it had paid too much for the business.

Arthur Andersen, the accountancy firm acting as independent arbitrators, ruled last October that Brent Walker had indeed overpaid by £117.5m. But it only received £36m as it had already withheld £50m from the final payment for William Hill and was charged in-Lerest on the money owed. Now

Brent Walker is claiming it, in turn, is still owed interest on the £117.5m it was deemed to have overpaid, which it estimates

amounts to £100m. Sir Brian and George Bull, his counterpart at GrandMet, have held numerous talks about compensation owing, but discussions remain deadlocked. GrandMet has resolutely refused to pay a penny as it believes the original contract to sell William Hill made no provision to cover interest payments.

The matter has been passed on to the companies' lawyers. If they cannot hammer out a deal soon, Brent Walker plans to sue GrandMet. Brent Walker is in the process of selling William Hill in an at-

tempt to reduce its £1.2bn debt mountain. Even if it disposes of the betting chain, however, it will be able to pursue its legal case against GrandMet. Sir Brian has received several offers for the business, including bids from Bass and CinVen, the venture capitalist group. Some of the bids are thought to exceed earlier estimates of £650m. It plans to whittle down the field to several leading candidates within the next few weeks.

GrandMet will be keen to settle the dispute once and for all before merging with Guinness Analysts believe it may be willing to pay some compensation to baulk at forking out £100m.

## Man Utd on lookout for acquisitions in Far East

**Andrew Yates** 

Manchester United, the UK's best-supported football club, is understood to be eyeing up acquisitions in the Far East. Speculation is mounting that it is set to become the first English club to buy or take a stake

in a foreign football club.
It is believed to be scouring Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia for targets. It would also love to tap into the Chinese market, where it recently went on tour and where the game is rapidly growing in

In the past few weeks Unit-ed has appointed Hong Kong-based HSBC investment bank as advisers, a move that has been interpreted by observers as a forerunner to acquisitions.

"You don't employ corporate financiers for nothing. You employ them to look for acquisitions. The Far East is an obvious place to look," said one source.

Vinay Bedi, a football analyst with Wise Speke, believes United is most likely to lead the way among British clubs seeking to expand abroad.

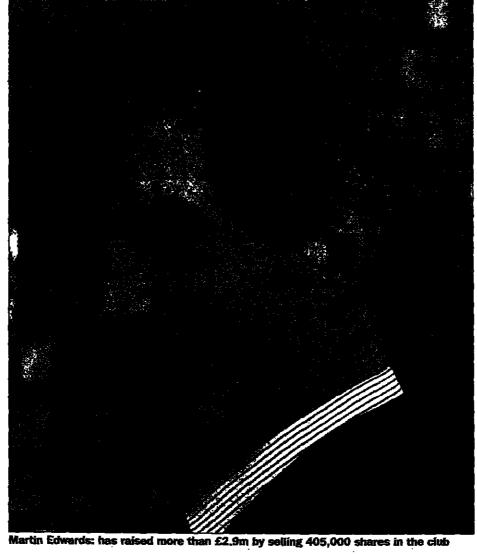
"Acquisitions in the Far East are very possible in due course for many of the leading Premiership clubs. I would not be surprised if Manchester United was at the forefront of that initiative," he said yesterday. United's chief executive

Martin Edwards, has already made it clear that he wants to expand the club's operations in the Far East. He recently employed Peter Kenyon, a former executive at United's kit sponsors, Umbro, as deputy chief executive to oversee global

The club has just opened an office and shop in China, from where it will co-ordinate its Far East operations. It already has shops in Thailand, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia, where it is marketing its brands

If these prove a success it plans to roll out stores across the Far East. Sources suggest buying a club in the Far East would be a natural way to boost mer-

chandise sales in these stores. "It is no secret that we are interested in the Far East. We are looking at opportunities over



there," a spokesman for Unit-ed said yesterday. Meanwhile, Mr Edwards has

who once held 24 per cent of the raised more than £2.9m by selling 405,000 shares in the club. Family trusts controlled by Mr Edwards have also sold 500,000

club, has gradually been reducing his stake over the past few years and now owns less than 15 per cent.

the rules," a Burton spokesper-

son said. The company said it retained the right to "alter develop, or build on a winning suggestion" in determining the

shares for £3.25m. Mr Edwards,

sold the shares in the family trusts on advice that the trusts assets were too heavily reliant on United's share price.

shares to satisfy the demand for

new stock from one large insti-

tution. He is believed to have

Capital

defends

director's

dealings

Capital Corporation, the Lon-

don casmos group which has just

gone through a big management

upheaval, looks set to run into

further controversy following

the disclosure that John Dun-

kley, a executive director, made

£320,000 from an option deal in

June. The company notified the

Stock Exchange yesterday that Mr Dunkley had sold 333,196

shares at 186p each on 26 June, the day after he had exercised the

same number of "management warrants" - equivalent to

Capital is in the midst of an inquiry being conducted by the Monopolies and Mergers Com-

mission following the £192m hostile bid from the rival Lon-

don Clubs International group

earlier this year. The 47 for 100

all-paper offer would today be

worth 175p a share, with London Clubs up 2.5p at 373p yes-terday, had it not lapsed

following the announcement of the MMC investigation. Cap-

ital's shares were up 1p to

183.5p yesterday.

Capital revealed two months

ago that its chairman, Garry Nesbitt, was stepping down to be replaced by Ernest Sharp, a

former director of Grand Met-

ropolitan. Mr Nesbitt was the

target of criticism over the com-

pany's poor management con-

trols, most notably over wine

purchasing. Some of the

sharpest attacks were said to

have come from Kenneth

Thompson, a former director of

Royal Bank of Scotland and

Glazo, who was Capital's acting

options - at 90p each.

Magnus Grimond

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

## Construction upturn set to profit Ashtead

to defy gravity since reinventing itself as an outsourcer of industrial for some time. Meanwhile, in equipment in the early 1990s.
Over the past five years it has underdeveloped market is roughly quadrupled its share of the non-operated plant hire market to 14 per cent, making it the biggest in the UK, despite one of the deepest building slumps since the War. And its pure rental profits, stripping out equipment sales, now put it ahead of Hewden-Stuart, the grand old man of the industry. As Ashtead founders Peter

Lewis, chairman, and George Burnett, managing director, were reminding their investors yesterday, shareholders have enjoyed a 50 per cent compound annual growth in returns over the same five-

year period. The occasion for all this

crowing was the announcement of a 68 per cent rise in profits to £28.3m for the year to April. The figures were undoubtedly boosted by acquisitions, of which the main ones were McLean in the US and Leada Acrow in the UK, acquired for £35m in February 1996. Leaving those aside, along with some smaller purchases during the past year, nearly half the 54 per cent jump in sales to £148m was generated from existing operations.

So even if much of Ashtead's extraordinary expansion has been acquired, it has also proved itself capable of growing the business. Much of that is due to heavy invest-ment, backed by prodigious cash flow, at a time when rivals have not had the balance sheet strength to gear up. Last year saw capital expenditure on plant rise 23 per cent to £94.5m, with some 60 per cent of that covered by cash flow of £57,4m. With a similar sort of expenditure pencilled in for the current year, Ashtead, as one of the few large players to emerge in plant hire, should be well placed for an upturn in a building and construction sector which has increasingly

divested its own plant and The group has had little help thus far. Rental rates slipped another 5 per cent last year, leaving them some 30 per cent below 1989 levels, and operating margins in the UK fell from 18.8 to 17 per cent. But, significantly, Ashtead pushed through its first price rises for around eight years in April

pear to be sticking. With the fashion to outsource gathering momentum and the water, gas and elec-

and, although small, they ap-

shtead has appeared tricity industries starting to forecast at 20 per cent this year, the prospects appear even

> Profits from Sunbelt, which operates in seven southeastern states, nearly tripled from £4.1m to £11.7m last year. Mr Lewis reckons they can more than triple the company's profit centres from 30 to 100 before moving into Texas and also possibly the

West Coast Meantime, group profits of £34.5m this year would put the shares, up 10p to 302.5p, on a forward multiple of 16. Still reasonable value.

#### Currency fears knock Ellis

Themicals group Ellis & Everard has come back down to earth with a bump in the last six months. For four years from 1993-96 the company saw its shares bound ahead as a series of small acquisitions combined with decent organic growth to restore profits after a setback in 1992. The company has gradually carved out a niche buying bulk chemicals, breaking them down and supplying smaller companies which the

big manufacturers choose not to supply directly
But this year Ellis & Everard shares have lost almost 25 per cent of their value, falling from a high of 320p in January to 240p, up 1.5p yesterday. What happened? Most of the

collapse seems to have been due to negative sentiment surrounding the sector as a result of currency concerns. This is a bit harsh on Ellis, which does not have much of an export business. However, profits from its low margin US operations are at risk from the currency impact of translating them from dollars. Another factor depressing the shares was a broker shifting a big line

was a broker statung a organic of stock a few weeks ago.

Profits for the year to April were 16 per cent ahead at £29.6m, which was in line with expectations. The strength of sterling knocked £500,000 off profits in the second half of the period and, if rates remain period and, if rates remain broadly unchanged, the hit will be about the same in the

first half of this year.

Eight acquisitions in the last financial year took Ellis further into the US, which already accounts for a half of group sales. Yesterday it announced the acquisition of Mozel, a speciality chemicals distribution group for £13.1m. Though the operating margins are poor - £1.3m profit on £62m of sales - Ellis chief executive Peter Wood reckons it can improve margins to 3 per

Ellis & Everard will remain vulnerable to the current jitters about the chemicals sector. But it is a well-managed business which has shown itself prudent in both cost-cutting and acquisitions. On Kleinwort Benson's current year forecast of £34m, the shares trade on a forward rating of just over 9. While the stock may tread: water in the short term due to the strong pound, this lowly rating could make them an attractive, low-risk bet.

#### Ashtead: At a glance

Market value: £417m, share price 302.5p (+10p)

Five-year record 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 Pre-tax profits (£m) Dividends per share (p) 1.38

bilding Construction

#### **Ascot to start Suter sell-off**

Howard Dyer arrived as chairman. Mr Dyer had built up a strong City following as a successful director of Williams and then at toy retailer Hamleys, where he was credited with turning round a group which seemed in ter-minal decline. So his first hig acquisition at Ascot, the £277m purchase of miniconglomerate Suter last summer, was greeted with some

chief executive for a spell last Since then, however, the shares have lost their gloss, year. He also stepped down as a non-executive director in May. A spokesman yesterday de-fended the share sale by Mr falling by more than a third. Ascot has plenty of reasons to explain the fall. Conglomer-Dunkley, who is said to be conates, especially small ones, sidering a property purchase, pointing out that the bid and the have fallen out of fashion with impending interim results aninvestors it says. Former Suter nouncement had reduced the shareholders who received opportunities for transactions.

Investors expected great part of their payment in Ascot things of Ascot when shares have also been selling their stakes. And Mr Dyer recognises Ascot's price had got ahead of itself, trading well

above net asset value. The fact remains that Mr Dyer has done very little with Suter's businesses so far. A few of Ascot's old assets, such as hotels and pubs, have been sold but big disposals have been conspicuous by their

That is about to change. Rico, its South African fridge business, Presto, which makes cutting tools and Depilex, which sells beauty therapy equipment, are likely to go within the next few months. The car parts division is likely to be sold within the year.

That will leave Ascot as an engineering and chemicals

business and when the dust settles Mr Dyer plans to hit the acquisition trail. Yesterday he hired another city heavyweight former LucasVarity finance director John Grant, as chief executive to help him get on with the job. It looks a sound appointment, After all, Mr Grant in effect ran Lucas-Varity for the best part of a year when George Simpson ran off to join GEC.

Kleinwort Benson forecasts current year profits of £28m. putting the shares, up 5p to 238.5p yesterday, on a prospective p/e ratio of 9. Mr Dyer needs to make a decent acquisition to return Assot's share price to its former glory.
That said, the shares have probably reached the begons and should begin to recoger as the sell-off starts. Good saline.

#### Cavaghan hit by BSE | Burton seeks name

Nigel Cope

Cavaghan & Grey, the food group, said the BSE problem had "significantly affected the business and will continue to affect sales". Though pre-tax profits rose by £5.4m to £7.2m, sales at the frozen food retailing business were £8.3m lower at £39.4m due largely to a 40 per cent slump in sales of beef products.

In frozen food catering, operating profits were also affected by the BSE issue. However, the company said it was developing a larger range of fish and vegetable based products to reflect changing consumer Management said the com-pany's chilled prepared foods business, which makes ready made meals for Marks & Spencer, had a programme of new product launches in place for autumn and Christmas. It said these, together with costcutting and the benefits from its capital expenditure programme, left the group well placed for the

Group pre-tax profits were £5.5m compared with £988,000 the previous year when the figures were scarred by £2.7m of exceptional charges, largely related to stock write-offs caused by "mad cow disease". The final dividend was 3.7p. The shares were unchanged at 60p. I ition and this is just clarifying

Nigel Cope City Correspondent

Burton Group, the retailer which announced plans to demerge its Debenhams department stores operation last week, has launched a competition to decide the new name of its multiples businesses which include Burton Menswear, Dorothy Perkins, Top Shop and Principles.

The competition is open to

the public and the prize is a twoweek holiday for two on a tropical island. Accommodation will be in a luxury hotel and the winner will be given £1,000. "We had said we would decide the name with a compet-

ultimate name of the company, which also operates Racing Green and Evans stores. Insiders say Mr Hoerner, a Mid-western American, might be keen on Nebraska pic. As the rules do not bar Burton employees from entering, he is free to send himself a suggestion. Entries must be received

by 31 August. The winner will be decided by 10 September.
Entries in writing to: John
Hoerner, chief executive, Burton
Group, 10 Great Castle Street,

London, WIN 7AD.

\*INDEPENDENT

## FREE: Thai food dish up to the value of £8

The Independent and Independent on Sunday are giving you the opportunity to claim a free Thai food dish up to the value of £8 at a selection of Thai restaurants.

Y THE INDEPENDENT

By using the voucher (previously printed on July 12th, 13th and 14th - a further voucher will be printed in *The Independent* on Friday 18th July) you can claim your Free Thai food dish, per table reservation from the main menu up to the value of £8 at one of 41 participating restaurants.
The list of participating restaurants previously published in
The Independent and Independent dent on Sunday on July12th and 13th, will be printed again in The Independent on Friday 18th July. All the participating restaurants are members of the Thai Restaurant Association (UK).

#### **HOW TO BOOK**

Firstly, phone up the restaurant of your choice from the list published and identify yourself as an Independent diner. You will need to check with the individual restaurants for their opening times and pre-booking is essential. Then simply cut out the voucher and take it to the restaurant of your choice and present it at the time of order, indicating either a starter or a main dish from the full priced menu that you wish to claim as your free dish. The vouchers can be used until 31st August 1997.

So, why not bring a spot of Thailand to your palate, whether it's dumplings, intensely flavoured soups, pad Thai, satay, spicy salads, mouthwatering currys or sweet sticky rice! The choice is

Correction: The That Thank restaurant, Streatham, SW is was printed with the incorrect phone number. The correct number is 01st 709 7229. SOMTAM (Green Papaya Salad)

ingredients (1 serving)

4 oz/120g 1 clove 1 tbsp/15ml

4-5 2 tbsp/30ml 1 tbsp/15ml 2 tbsp/30ml tbsp/15ml

Grated raw green papaya Gartic (small, peeled) Roasted peanuts Medium fresh red or green chillies Long beans (chopped into 1"/1.25cm pieces) (use french beans as a substitute)

Dried Shrimp (ground) Lemon iuice Sugar Medium-sized Tomato (sliced into rounds)

Use a hand grater sliding the vegetable down its whole length in order to obtain the longest possible gratings. If green papaya is not available, grated carrot or finely shredded white cabbage could be

Lettuce and parsley to garnish

Pound the papaya with the gartic either in a clay mortar or mixing and squeezing it gently with a spoon in a bowl.

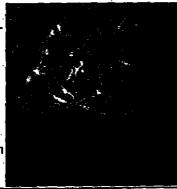
3. With a pestle and mortar or in a bowl, gently mix all the ingredients together, beginning with the hardest and then adding the liquids.

4. Alternate pounding and turning with a spoon until all are thorough-

5. Turn onto a serving plate lined

with lettuce and parsley Serve either as a starter or ideally

served with sticky rice The Taste of Thailand by Vatcharin Bhumichitr published by Pavilion



TERME Also CONNITIONS.

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## market report/shares

Data Bank FTSE 100 4857.4 +57.9 FISE 250 4423.9 +15.6 FTSE 350 2325.9 +24.1 SEAQ VOLUME .737.4m shares, **52,735** bargains Gits Index 96.66 -0.49 Share spotlight

## Preference for gilts fails to slow Footsie's record run

On the day Merrill Lynch de-clared that fund managers some nervousness among pro-fessional investors" but they were "keen sellers" of equities Footsie stretched to a peak, gaining 57.9 points to 4,857.4. The US investment house

vestors for their views on the Stock market.

The latest survey, published yesterday, said: "Fund managers are looking to market was in rampant form, stock market. agers are looking to raise their it called pharmaceuticals corexposure to UK gilts and rectly. Drugs were favoured by

the largest majority since trading levels.

December, 1994.

Managers were switching to behind the outbreak of drug en-Government stocks, it con- thusiasm. The British drugs cluded, because they were pes-simistic about interest rates and

could be buying "despite their

misgivings".

The securities house's curregularly polls institutional investors for their viscous for thei

Although Merrill Lynch had reduce their exposure to UK fund managers and they were equities." It said buyers of in the forefront of yesterday's Government stocks outnum-bered sellers by 29 per cent – the backdrop of unexceptional

> contingent has yet to enjoy the sort of ratings which most of



MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN stock market reporter of the year

talk ICI could hit 1,000p.

and, just to keep the pot boil-ing, Roche, the big Swiss group which has been linked with almost every drug company of note, is due to disclose sales fig-ures this week. Such is the fever of expectation in the industry that any statement from Roche, no matter how mundane, is regarded as having the a 12-month high in New York. potential to create excitement.

So Glazzo Wellcome jumped 59.5p to 1,376.5p; Zeneca, where takeover hopes still linger, 78.5p to 2,158.5p and SmithKline Beecham 43p to tended US partner, MCL had another busy line session with the shares gaining 16p to 456.5p. Desperate attempts by arbitrageurs to close their positions was largely responsible for the partial recovery. Storehouse firmed to 212p.

BZW, the investment house with a 69.5p gain to 880p as the \$30n bulk chemicals sale to El which has been a long time bear, has taken the shares off DePont de Nemours, the US giits sell list. In the past year Storehouse has fallen from ant, captivated the market with 319p to 185.5p shortly before The group, which has sadly last week's moderately betterunderperformed in recent

than-expected trading update.

Another far from buoyant retailer, WH Smith, put on 9p to 350.5p, partly on takeover hopes with Tesco regarded as the most likely bidder. Tesco and the other superstores which had expose runs last Once again it was a case of two markets - the blue chips and the rest. Much of the investment activity was concenwhich had strong runs last week eased on profit taking.

15p from its 12-month low to division which has been on tomorrow with around £90m concentrate on its hotels,

a further 8.5p to 216p, ternational Whispers of equalling their year's low, and takeover action refuse to die Thora found yet another rest- although a hostile bid would ing place following its demeger from EMI, falling 18.5p shares are 139.5p. to 158.5p following a profits

tin Edwards sold 405,000

shares at 560p.

Barr & Wallace Arnold bounded a further 26p to 316.5p on the planned sale of its leisure division and DBS Management, the financial Cammel

materials group. put on 8p to Friendly Hotels is thought to have clinched the sale of per and packaging group, rose its loss-making office services 184.5p as a hovering line was the market for more than a cleared. Year's results are due year. The deal will allow it to strengthened by its links with (against £125m) expected. strengthened by its links wit
Rolls-Royce, however, dived
US group Choice Hotels In-

Arcon International, the warning. Arcon International, the
Manchester Utd firmed to Irish zinc-lead miner, is plan-651p after chief executive Margas operations through the creation of a company, Providence Resources, which will be floated on the Irish Stock

. · .		cluded, because they were pes- sinistic about interest rates and few expected economic activ- ity to strengthen. The abolition of tax credits was another in- hibiting influence.  Merrill Lynch's Bijal Shah said the survey "indicated	sort of ratings which most of their transatlantic counterparts are accorded and the US in- terest was said to reflect New York's search for cheap stock. A bay circular from NatWest	system to 1,376.5p; Zeneca, where takeover hopes still linger, 78.5p to 2,158.5p and SmithKline Beecham 43p to 1,247p. Even British Biotech joined the advance, up 12.5p to 167p.  Imperial Chemical Industries led the blue-chip charge	and the rest. Much of the investment activity was concentrated among the leaders with the second and third liners largely neglected. Indeed, the FTSE SmallCap index managed a 1 point gain to 2,205.4.  BT, after Friday's shock profit warning from its in-	and the other superstore: which had strong runs las week eased on profit taking. Some of the hard pressed ex porters perked up. Wolseley the building materials distrib utor, hardened 23p to 456.5 and Cookson, the industria	its leisure division and DBS Management, the financial group, lost 67.5p to 1,077.5p as the Personal Investment Au- thority confirmed it had start	Exchange.  Cammell Laird, the repairer, closed at 114.  ter being launched at 1	e ship .5p af- 100o
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## Technology set to show its strength in currency debate

Sterling officially back at DM3.00? The dollar at a six-year high? The first has beyear high? The first has happened despite the widespread view that this is not sustainable; the second despite a widening current account deficit. Why are these seemingly perverse things taking place? Have the markets gone mad?

Not really. What has taken place in the past few weeks has been that the perceived status of the euro has shifted in a quite extraordinary way. Sterling and the dollar are attractive partly because of interest rate expectations, but that is only a surface reason, for we all knew weeks ago that rates on both sides of the Atlantic would move higher this year. The underlying reason for the change in sentiment is because investors do not want to hold any currencies which might be con-verted into the euro. Sterling and the dollar are safe havens.

The markets still seem to believe the euro will happen. They reckon it may even happen on time, though this looks less likely by the day. But it has become radically more likely that, if it does happen on time, it will be a weak currency. The tensions that this might create, in narticular in Germany which would have exchanged the mark for the euro, hardly bear thinking about. I happen to think that the probability of the euro happening during the next 10 years are less than evens. That is still a minority view, but the

balance is swinging that way. Given the increasing likelihood of failure, or at least delay, you would imagine that our European leaders were doing some contingency planning. How might Euro-pean economic integration be pushed forward in the absence of a single currency? They aren't. Or at least if they are not a squeak has

emerged. Fortunately, however, the private sector is doing it for them. There are a number of practical reasons why currencies will become less of a barrier to international movements of trade and finance thanks to technological advance. If the politicians make a mess, technology will rescue them.



Hamish McRae

Our leaders aren't making contingency plans. The private sector is doing it for them

Some examples. The most obvious is the way in which, for retail payments, credit cards are gradually bringing the benefits of an international currency. At the moment there are still barriers in transaction cost, currency conversion, speed and security. But the shift to debit cards is cutting transaction costs dramatically: in the US this is typically about one-third of a credit card.

As the experience of the telephone companies in handling micro-payments is applied to retailing more generally the transaction cost of electronic sales could fall to fractions of a penny - just like

Currency? Technically it would be possible to have instant currency conversion, so that the purchaser would see the price in his or her local currency, and pay that precise price. We are not there yet, though an interesting intermediate stage has been reached at Heathrow, where some of the shops offer their own (more favourable) exchange rate for non-sterling purchases, in effect making up their own ex- price the same, it would encourage

change rates rather than taking those handed down by the market. Speed? As telecommunications links, tills and card verification all continue to improve, soon card transactions will become signifi-

cantly quicker than cash ones. And finally security: here there are two camps. One reckons it will be possible to make credit (or debit) card transactions totally secure by adding voice recognition, or a palm-print reader. The other camp believes the way forward for

small transactions is the smart card. The prototype here is Mondex, the card developed by a consortium led by Nat West, where the value is embedded in the card and deducted each time it is used. The card could be recharged at points in banks and retailers, rather like cash dispensers. Interestingly, Mon-dex has been bought by Mastercard. From the point of view of the supplier, the smart card has enormous attractions. The "money" is carried around by the user, just like cash, so there is no serious security problem. All that can be lost is the cash embedded in the card.

The cash could also be withdrawn in any currency, just like a credit card, so in theory it could be a new international currency, usable anywhere in the world. Whether people want to use it is less clear. We simply do not know. But if Mondex and its successors do not fly it will be for social reasons, not tech-

Fixing retail transactions within Europe so that everyone can use their own currency is the most obvious potential benefit from technology, but in terms of total economic impact it is relatively unimportant. For commerce potential benefits of a common currency include common pricing and the elimination of exchange risk in long-term contracts.

Common pricing is one of the most important single commercial benefits of a common currency. At the moment companies can price differently in different markets because the exchange rate conceals these differences. If they had to

them to concentrate production in the lowest-cost areas, rather than source locally and charge higher prices in high-cost locations.

Technology cannot force com-mon pricing to the same extent that a common currency would do, but it is going to make pricing more transparent and the more it does so, the more pressure there will be on producers not to over-price. The mechanism here is the Internet, or rather some refinement of what is still a crude prototype of what linked computers will become. One of the effects of the Internet in the US has been to give buyers infinite information about pricing. The price of any commodity, or commoditised service, is infinitely available, Electronic search engines are being developed to hunt out the cheapest deal. The effect is to make the market much more efficient. Add in automatic currency conversion and any business will be

of pricing.
What it will not do is eliminate exchange risk. What it may do, however, is to cut the cost and extend the capability of hedging. At the moment companies hedge their short-term exchange rate exposure. They do not cover their longterm exposure because the costs become prohibitive. But the use of technology ought to enable financial institutions to make a stepchange in the cost of operation, which in turn will tend to be passed on to customers. So at one remove technological advance will even help here.

able to cross-check the price of any

commoditised product or service. Technology will create transparency

It would be absurd to try to claim that technological advance will make the euro irrelevant. It is not a substitute, because conceptually economic integration that results from technical change is different from economic integration that results from political change. But what it can do is to cut many of the costs of having multiple currencies. And if the project fails, Europe will need all the help it can get to maintain the momentum of economic advance.

## Treasury staff may find a home at Trafalgar Square

Treasury civil servants have been mortified by a memo from Gordon Brown's private office advising them that the Chancellor likes to read his Ministerial papers between 6am and 8am each day. The sting in the tail is that everyone who writes papers for him must provide home numbers so he can phone them if he has any queries.

While civil servants are still recovering from this blow they can comfort themselves with the news of a U-turn over the Treasury building's refurbishment.

Ken Clarke hatched a plan to redevelop half the Treasury building in Whitehall as bijoux apart-ments, while the other would be tarted up for the department. This involved Treasury personnel temporarily moving out to a tatty of Vanshall Bridge. Some White-hall cynics viewed the project as an elaborate joke by Mr Clarke on his stern Scottish successor.

Now Geoffrey Robinson, Pay-master General, has decided to press ahead with the refurbishment as a PFI project, but the move to Vauxhall has been ditched. Instead the Treasury will look for more convenient (and agreeable) temporary offices. Treasury mandarins are already eyeing MAFF's building near Trafaigar Square, I hear.

The attempt to find new backers for the troubled newspaper Sunday Business, which I wrote about last week, appear to have foundered.

The immediate crisis came about when Gordon Brown, a northern industrialist who owns three-quarters of the paper, went bust. His receivers, Coopers & Lybrand, were hoping to sell the stake to Owen Oyston, the jailed entrepreneur, in a deal put together by ex-founding editor Tom Rubython. The deadline for the deal passed yesterday afternoon at three, and receivership now looms for Sunday Business itself.

A sticking point appears to be the ownership structure of the paper. Luke Johnson, the businessman behind PizzaExpress. owns around a fifth of the paper, but with the right to appoint a

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Gordon Brown (left) has changed a plan by Kenneth Clarke porarily to move Treasury personnel south of the Thames

majority of its directors. A spokeswoman for the receivers said yesterday this gave Mr John-son a "veto" over any sale of the paper. "It was a sticking point with the original deal," she said.

Mr Rubython yesterday said he was "unqualified to comment" about the future of the paper. saying he had tried to help refinance it but "I don't think we succeeded". He's now concentrating on an Internet project.

Yesterday forlorn groups of Sunday Business staff - there are 60 of them - hung around outside the paper's Cavendish Square offices, hoping to pick up some of their back pay. Coopers is hopeful that even if the paper goes into receivership it can be sold as a going concern, thus

Evel Knievel is following the Sunday Business story with interest. Not the American motorcyclist that is - this is the nom de metier of Simon Cawkwell, the maverick investor who writes a column for Sunday Business. "If the paper is refinanced, then I'll be back on track. If not, I'm open to offers,"

he told me yesterday. Mr Cawkwell has been giving a hard time to Display IT, a troubled Internet-based company in which Mr Cawkwell admits he has

a short position. Display IT's shares recovered 120p to 265p yesterday, still down on the 810p they touched earlier this year. Regarding that precipitous decline, Display IT's directors are muttering about "share manipulation".

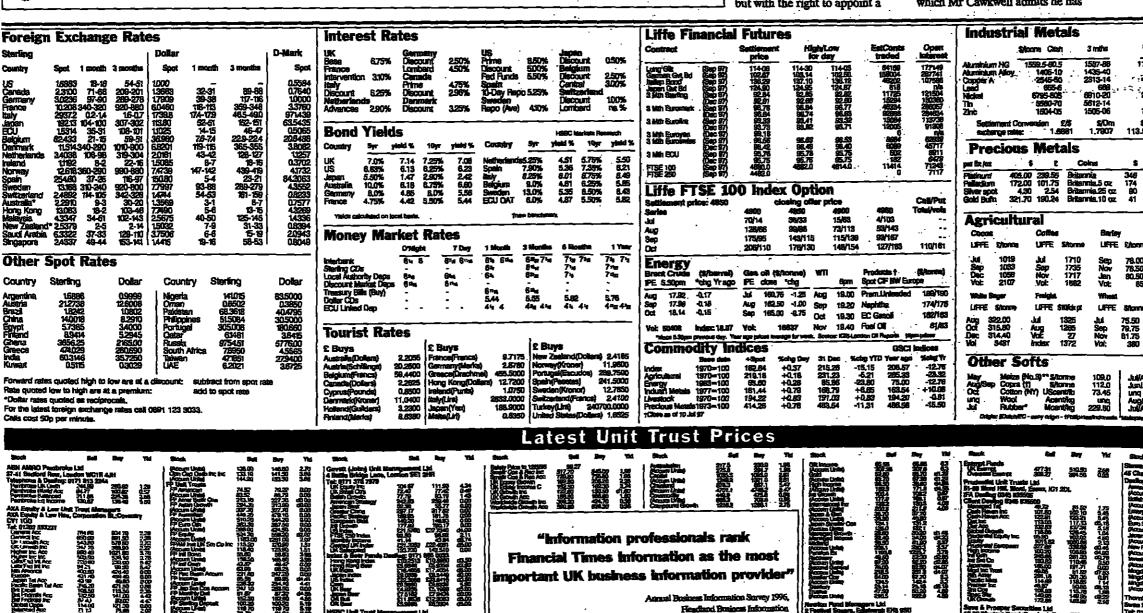
They can agree with Mr Cawkwell on one point. He says: "This story has much further to go."

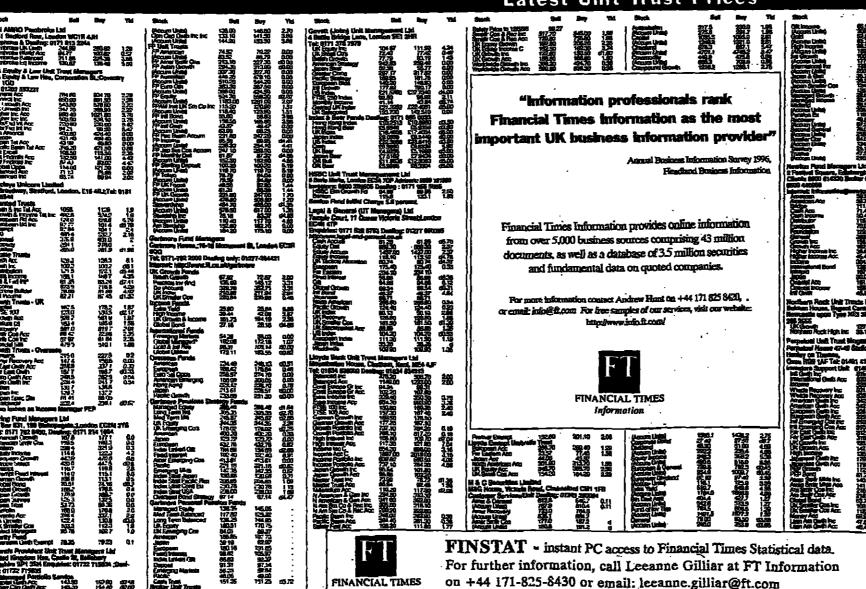
There's a new Broom at Accountancy Age, the bean counters' weekly magazine. Douglas
Broom, who has edited Public Finance magazine for the past three years, will take over at AA in August. He fills the chair left by Andrew Pring, who unexpectedly parted company with the mag in April due to "irreconcilable differences" with management. Let's hope Mr Broom's

sojourn will be happier.

Morgan Stanley's retail team canclaim more industry experience than most. Julie Ramshaw, stores analyst from 1990 to 1996, has returned from an ill-fated stint at Laura Ashley and is now UK retail analyst. This has involved moving Victoria Melendez to become European apparel and sports clothing analyst, with Claire Kent covering European retail.

John Willcock





## Cigar to relax in seclusion to overcome infertility

When it emerged earlier this year that Cigar, the finest American racehorse of the last two decades, had failed to get a single mare into foal during his first season at stud, most racing fans paused briefly to reflect on one of the turi's more unfortunate little ironies before deciding that it was just one of

those things. But at an insurance company called Assicuazion Generali, they were not prepared to give up so easily, and with good reason. The firm was the chief underwriter of a policy taken out by Alien Paulson, Cigar's own-er, and Ashford Stud, where he was standing, to cover them-selves against just such an even-

The horse's failure to produce the goods in the pad-docks cost the insurers \$25m (£15m), a record payout for in-fertility. Now, in the hope of recovering at least some of their have fertility problems after

is under a cloud.

2.00 Glpsy Princess

3.00 Rainbow Rain

3.30 Gildersleve

Greg Wood on new tactics to help the world's top racehorse over his problems

losses, they are prepared to try anything to correct the faults in Carthy says. He has been told Cigar's reproductive system.

The latest person who will attempt to tackle the problem, the root of which is thought to be a deficiency in Cigar's sperm which makes them misshapen and immobile, is Phil Mc-Carthy, a vet who specialises in stallion reproduction. He believes that Cigar's difficulties may result from the stress of constant competition over the last four years, a period which included a trip to the Middle East to win the inaugural Dubai World Cup, and during which he rarely went for more than a

month without a race. "The best thing we've got going for us now is that we know that performance athletes often

who points out that semen production in horses operates on a 60-day cycle and it could take several cycles before he discovers whether a stress-free that he can do whatever he feels existence has had any effect on is necessary, with the proviso the shape or mobility of Cigar's that the horse must not be harmed in any way. After all, as In the meantime, samples of

McCarthy acknowleges, "we the horse's semen has been must treat him with all the resent to laboratories on three spect that we can because he is continents for analysis, while exan American sporting hero." perts in the fields of both conine His first aim is to relax Cigand human fertility have volar as thoroughly as possible, unteered to assist in the search and he has moved his patient for a cure for his problem. to a secluded farm near Paris,

McCarthy will be given at least a year, however, to see whether his technique can prove successful. Until then, Cigar will live a life of blissful and absolute relaxation, and since he banked almost \$10m (£6m) in prize-money during his brilliant career on the track, noone could argue that he does No one expects quick re- not deserve it.



Cigar: has a six-acre paddock for his personal use while

#### Handicapper defends Britain's Classic crop

The British Horseracing Board handicapper Nigel Gray yes-terday detended Britain's Classic crop after yet another defeat at the Curragh. The eclipse of Yashmak and Etoile in Sunday's Irish Oaks means that not one of the first four Irish Classics, often dominated by overseas raiders in the past, has fallen to

Kentucky, where he can live as

naturally as possible. The horse

who used to put thousands on

to the attendance wherever

he raced is now seen by very

12 hours a day amusing himself

in his personal, six-acre pad-

v people, and spends at least

Gray, responsible for assess-

"I don't think that means ours is a poor Classic crop. If you look at the performance of the Derby winner Benny the Dip in the Eclipse they can't be that bad. You can only really tell when the three-year-olds run against the older horses, as

"And I don't think you can say that the Irish three-year-olds are better than ours at this stage. We come across and won ours." A total of 15 British-trained horses have contested the four

Irish Classics this year, including the favourites for each race, and mustered only two places between them. Notable flops include the Derby runner-up, Silver Patriarch, and the 1,000 Guineas-placed On Nellie and Dazzle. But Gray said: "Some

sies, but their borses baven't low form. When Silver Patriarch and The Fly were well beaten at the Curragh people said the Derby form is awful, but they were obviously below form so

it didn't tell anyone anything.' No horse from Britain has won an Irish Classic since Matiya landed the Irish 1,000 Guineas for Ben Hanbury last spring. The only hope of avoiding a whitewash lies in the Irish

of our horses have just run be- St Leger on 21 September. Aren Spirit could find this easy. Batabannoo has seen better days and this looks a tougher handicap than the one in which he flushed three and a half lengths fifth to Salske twho has been well beaten twice strong at Nottingham lest time. This is a new trip for Love Me Do, who did not excel lest time in a slowly-uni lades' noce over a mule and three furloags at Hamilton. Black like Boy is 3.0b higher than when winning by half the track at the lest meeting, which survived a precautionary inspection following heavy ram. Previously, on faster ground at Cartiste, he was an all-the-way half-length winner and he would need to improve a great deal on that to win off today's mark.

## 4.30 TOSHIBA HANDICAP (CLASS F) £4,500 addied 5f Penalty Value £3,891 200531 TROPICAL BEACH (LO) (D) (Jam Unsworth) J Beny 4 10 0.

FORM GUIDE

HERE COMES A STAR has been dropped a further 2th following fair efforts on his last three turns. The inner-year-old is now 21th lower than when a commendable minth of 18 to Double Splendour in a valuable York handicap over six furiongs just 12 months ago. The tact that he was besten in a six-furiongs seller at Carlste last time has to be balanced against this penultimate run when four and a half lengths fifth of 15 to Blessindingsies over this trip at Ripon. With only five drawn higher than him, Here Comes A Star looks a fair each way bet in a competitive field. Course and distance winner Stotles Mass is only 7to better off for the four and a half lengths that Troplical Beach best her at Carlste but has a plum draw. Troplical Beach's tendency to start slowly could accentuate any problems ansing from his low staff, and that recent form can be reversed. Uttra Beact, behind both of them at Carlste, can do better on faster ground and is racing on what tooks to be the right set of the track. Next a Bonemana was close up in a bunch firsh in the Newmarket sprint won by Gone Savcan do better on taster ground and is racing on what tooks to be the right sole of the track. Ned's Bonteman was close up in a bunch finish in the Newmarket sprint won by Gone Savage last week and, although only severith, was less than two lengths behind the winner. If the high draw here is as significant as it usually is in big fields, in-form Ned's Bontema must be feared at his favounte time of year. At last month's foture, which was run on testing ground, the low numbers were there at the finish of the five-furing race, with Dominishe coming off worst of three in the photo. Tim Easterdy's filly has been put up 4lb for that, and if the low numbers get into the race again, she would have to be considered. Tinker's Surprise has the early speed to dominate from his starting position, but tends to find one or two curring han down in the closing stages.

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BETTENS: 15-8 Combrison Codet, 7-2 Rice, 8-1 Dibote, Half A Knicker, Lets Be Fair, Promitem Pri 12-1 Classic Streer, Moy, Scolding, 16-1 Lite Sentence 1998: See Desson are

FORM GUIDE

Whatever Miss Similinator can achieve in the first dustion, we can expect more from LETS BE FAIR, who was also leaving her first outing and finished a long way in front of Miss Eliminator when lourth in the same Ripon sace won by Happy Deys Again, Pramium Princess was arround five lengths admit, also having her first outing, and should also figure closer in today's lesser company, Sociolog is well held by both on a fine through lataler Rose. Cumbridae Caulet ran second to a well exposed and moderate son in Mill End Quest at Musselburgh last week and has had his chances. Half A Kiniclear may need to go back over a longer trip before being seen to best advantage. Lack Berry's record with two-year-olds at this track since Jamsay last year figs been exceptional, with a sinke rate of more than one in three and a near eight per cent return to level stakes. His reseconer Rib could be better drawn, but the owners are favourable and a mathet move would be significant for a year that can get them ready first time.

## Melbourne's rally call to Europe

RICHARD EDMONDSON

Many prospectors struck it big in Melbourne's goldrush of the mid-1850s, but among Britain and Ireland's thoroughbreds there has been only one horse that has hit the seam in the city's prestigious horse race. Since Vintage Crop succeeded in the 1993 Melbourne Cup there have been eight failures, with the closest finisher being the old horse himself, third in 1995.

Recent history has made the missionary job of Les Benton. of the Victoria Racing Club, even more difficult in Europe this summer. Benton, complete with brochures and videos, has been attempting to persuade owners of the better staying horses that Melbourne in spring is the ideal location for a foreign sortie. His main tool of inducement has been money. The winner of the Cup, the fifth richest race in the world, will receive £700,000, and even a finisher as far back as 10th on 4 November will earn £20,000. This is an attempt to defray travelling costs of about £40,000.

So far there are no definite bites on the line, but Benton, who likes to err on the side of exaggeration, believes there will be 15 entries and as many as four runners from the northern hemisphere. Confirmation day is on I August and judgement day, when the indicative weights appear, is 1 September. The word is that Jim Bowler, the VRC handicapper, will not be too cruel on our boys in an effort to encourage participation. The most positive running signals have come from Godol-

phin about their Classic Cliche, who is likely to run next in the Goodwood Cup. David Morley categorically ruled out Melbourne for Celeric after his win in the Ascot Gold Cup, but since then the gelding s owner, Christopher Spence, has been entertained by Benton. The strength of his company and the

wine list will soon be evident. Clerkenwell is also a possibility, as members of Michael Stoute's staff have been seen investigating the Cup's quarantine arrangements at Sandown racetrack, while there is also the chance of a Royal representative. Arabian Story is an outside consideration for Lord Huntingdon and The Queen, who, to the chagrin of Australia's republicans, is with them every day on the back of their coins.

Whoever goes ought to start charting their programme from here, according to Benton. "They can't treat it as an afterthought," he said from Melbourne yesterday. "It is one of the world's top races and it has to be treated as such, like a Breeders' Cup. They must prepare their horse, like Dermot Weld and Vintage Crop.

"It's extremely important from our point of view that Australian racing has international competition. We believe our racing is as good as anywhere in the world and we pride ourselves with the way we present our racing product." Our bookmakers like to pride themselves on stingy odds and there was no deviation yesterday. Ladbrokes go 20-1 about Classic Cliche, while the Tote offer a less then magnetic 3-1 for a European or Dubai-based victory.

#### RACING'S FUTURES MARKET

Hong Kong Jockey Clu	b Trop	hy Handica	(1 <u>m)</u>
Horse (Trainer/Weight)	Coral	William Hill	Ladbrokes
Dancing Image (1 Baking/Bat6to)	6-1	7-1	7-1
Red Robbo (R Akehurst/8st11lb)	6-1	7-1	7-1
Cosmic Prince (M Jarys/8s/5(b)	10-1	8-1	10-1
Fly To The Stars (M Johnston/9st1lb)	12-1	12-1	10-1
Gold Spets (M Strute/8st12th)	10-1	10-1	12-1
Handsley Hill (Mrs J R Ramster/9st1lb)	10-1	12-1	9.
Right Wing (W R HerryBst4lb)	10-1	10-1	12-:
Bold Words (E Dunlop/8st3(b)	14-1	14-1	12-1
Clan Ben [H Cect/Sst12tb)	12-1	14-1	10-1
Lonely Leader (R Hannon/9s:15tb)	14-1	14-1	3.4-3
Herry Wolton (H Ceci/8st12ib)	16-1	14-1	16-1
Hombeum (J Jenkins/8sr13th)	16-1	16-1	14-1
intisab (R Armstong/8st2fb)	16-1	16-1	14-1
Shawm (D Loder/8st3tb)	14-1	12-1	16-1
Dreams End (P Bower/8st)	16-1	14-1	
Almond Rock () Fanshawe)	16-1	16-1	20-1
Amrak Ajeeb (B Hanbury/9st10lb)	16-1	16-1	25-1
Authmn Cover (P Hedger/7st10th)	14-1	33-1	12-1
NB: 34 entries. Only 18 can run. Each-way 1/-	the adds, p	boes 1, 2, 3, 4 (Send	own, tomograwi

				=
Golden Mile	Handi	cap (1m	)	
Horse (Trainer/weight)	Coral V	Hii جيماس	Ladbrokes	Tota
Red Robbo (R Akehurst/8st12lb)	12-1_	10-1	12-1	11-1
Brave Kris (L Cuman/Est10(b)	14-1	12-1		14-1
Crown Court (L Cumary/8st11b)	12-1	12-1	12.1	14-1
Denoing Image (I Baiding/Bst7lb)	16-1_	14-1	16-1	16-1
Cosmic Prince (M Jaryis/8st3lb)	16-1	15-1	15-1	18-1
Fly To The Stars (M Johnston/9st2lb)	18-1	16-1	16-1	14-1
Manufago (G Wragg/7st13th)	12-1	18-1	14-1	12-1
Crumpton HEI (N Graham/8st10fb)	14-1	14-1	16-1	20-1
Gold Spats (M Strute/8x13th)	16-1	16-1	20-1	16-1
Hamicsley Hill (Mrs.) Ramaden/Sst2lb)	16-1	16-1	15-1	20-1
Jafn (8 Hanbury/8st5lb)	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1
Right Wing (W R Hem/BstSib)	20-1	16-1	20-1	20-1
Rudimental (M Prescott/7st7lb)	14-1	16-1	14-1	20-1
Tayseer (E Duntop/Bst1(Nb)	12-1	18-1	16-1	20-1
Cadeaux Tryst (E Duniop/9st6lb)	25-1_	20-1	16-1	20-1
Great Child (M Stoute/7st8lb)	25-1	20-1	<u>25-1</u>	<u>25-1</u>
Lonely Leader (R Harmon/9st6th)	25-1	20-1	<u>25</u> .1	<b>25</b> -1
Prince Bahar (J Banks/9st6lb)	20-1	20-1	25-1	<u> 25-1</u>
Shaheen (H Cecil/8st3lb)	25-1	20-1	25_1	20-1
Shawm (D Loder/7st12b)	20-1	25-1	20-1	20-1
Wister Rossance (E Dunion/9st8lb)	25-1	20-1	<u>25</u> _1	25-1
Each-way 1/4 the odds, places 1, 2	. 3, 4 Good	dwood, (Thui	sday, 31 July	;

Stewards' Cu	p Ha	ndicap (6	Sf)	
Horse (Trainet/weight)	Coral	William Hill	Ladbrokes	Tota
Denetime (N Callagnary/Bst10lb)	4-1	<u>5-1</u>	41*	7-1
Bishops Court (Mrs.) Remoder/8st12(b)	14-1	24-2	10-1	11-1
My Best Valentine (V 50ane/8st9tb)	12-1	14-1	14-1	12-1
Bitue Goblin (I. Cumeru/9st6ib)	14-1	14-1	16-1	14.1
Bottin Joanne (T Easterby/9st3lb)	10-1	10-1	12.1	16-1
Chan Chief (J Amoid/7st11fb)	16-1	16-1	16-1	18-1
Coastal Bluff (T D Barron/96110to)	18-1	14-1	12-1	10-1
Double Bosnce (P Makin/8st2h)	20-1	16-1	14-1	<u> 16-1</u>
Oggi (P Makin/Bst1lb)	16-1	16-1	20-1	16-1
Tumbleweed Ridge (B MecharySst&b)	20-1	14-1	12-1	<u>16-1</u>
Counte Prince (M. Janus/8st2lb)	20-1	16-1	26-1	20-1
Dashing Blue (I Baking/Sst13th)	25-1	20-1	18-1	<u> 25-1</u>
Nigrasiae U L Eyra/8st9(b)	20-1	20-1	20-1	25-1
Selburstperk Flyer (J Berry/9st)	20-1	20-1	25-1	25-1
Tayseer (E Durlop/9st10b)	20-1	20-1	25-1	20-1
To The Roof (P Hams/9s;5(b)	20-1	20-1	25-1	20-1
Warning Time (8 Mechany/8st13th)	25-1	20-1	25-1	20-1
Effand (Lady Hemes/85(24b)	33-1	20-1		<u>25</u> -1
Each-way 1/2 the od	ds. plac	es 1, 2, 3, 4		
* – with a run; Goodw	ood, Sa	urday, 2 Augs	5Q	

#### King on the sick list

King Of Kings, who relinquished his "superhorse" status

OK." the Ballydoyle handler explained. "It was a pity for everyquished his "superhorse" status when beaten at the Curragh on Sunday, may have been a sick horse. He did not eat up after returning to the stables of his trainer, Aidan O'Brien, who conceded that his juvenile team

The three two-year-olds we took out of Sunday's meeting were off the feed that morning, but King Of Kings seemed

**HYPERION** 

GOING: Good to Firm, STALLS: Inside, DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 57 & 77 100 pie.

GOING: Good to Firm, STALLS: Inside, DEAW ADVANTAGE: High for 5f & 7f 100yds.

If high-hand, galloping course with very stiff 6f.

Course is 1m W of town on A1035, Bus service from Beverley station (Hull - Scarborough line) 2m. ADMISSION: Club 512; Junior Club (16 to 21-year-olds) 58; Tattersulls 58; Silver Ring 53; Course Enclosure 52; Piculc area £2 or 52 per car, plus 52 per cerupons. CAR PARE: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS WITH EUNIMERS: M Johnston - 23 winners from 128 runners gives a success ratio of 18.6% and a loss to a 51 level stake of 54.49; J Berry - 22 winners, 118 runners, 18.6%, 519.36; Mrs M Bowley - 19 winners, 120 runners, 15.6%, 548.38; Mrs J Z Hamsden - 18 winners, 106 runners, 17.8%, 510.98.

ILEADING JOCKEYS: E Darley - 59 wins, 247 rides, 22.6%, 41.94; K Fallon - 24 wins, 191 rides, 12.6%, 541.36; J Wenner - 21 wins, 144 rides, 14.6%, 536.36; W Kyan - 14 wins, 69 rides, 20.3%, 520.04.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Prominent (3.00), Steight Gold (4.30), Napoleon Star (4.30) (Monred).

(VMONTED. IN LAST SEVEN DATS: None. LONG-DISTANCE HUNNERS: Sharp Doed (2.00) has been sent 207 miles by P Makin from

16-1 Mischlevens Time 1996: CLincher Club 3 S O T Williams 4-1 (M Johnston) Grann (7) 9 Ran PORTAL GUIDE

4.00 Tancred Mischlef

4.30 Ned's Bonanza

5.00 Lets Be Fair

one that King Of Kings did not stick his head in front. Unfortunately his symptoms were 24 hours behind the others." O'Brien added that Desert King is unlikely to run in the

King George VI And Queen Elizabeth Stakes and instead may go for the International at York or the Prix Jacques le Marois at Deauville.

a runner from Britain.

that's the true benchmark.

ing three-year-olds, stressed: haven't won any of their Clas-

3.00 COMET HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,500 added 3YO 7f 100yds Penalty Value £5,443

Penalty Value £5,443

1 04-100 MWAT (26) (20) (Alakoum A Makoum) B Hils 9 7 K Felico 2

2 -06410 RAMBOW REW (LSA) (7) (Makoum A Makoum) M Johnson 8 13 M Roberts 3

3 210000 JAY-DWS-TWO (16) (20) (R M Whitaker R Whitaker 8 10 Doon McMoroum 1

4 250911 ULTRA BOY (25) (Pet Express (MSR) Ltd P Hastern 8 10 J Doon McMoroum 1

5 -04406 CBS-M (27) (Dostani & Krimeter) M Inhirason 8 4 B Doyle 6

6 100601 THREE POR A POUND (12) (0) 6 yide Sporting Promotoris Limited) J Glorer 3 1.6 Carter 7

7 -00006 LADY GODINA (8) (Year Racing M Project 7 11 J Doint 5

6 036804 PROMINENT (12) (Mak Andrea M Makinson Mar V Acorisy 7 10 M Deeding 8 B

8 036804 PROMINENT (12) (Mak Andrea M Makinson Mar V Acorisy 7 10 M Deeding 8 B

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8 036804 PROMINENT (12) (Mak Andrea M M Makinson M Professor M Professor

1996: Green Barnes 3 9 7 M Halls 4-1 (M Johnston) drawn (3) 6 ran FORM GUIDE LADY GODIVA showed signs of a return to form at Windsor eight days ago. She made a gallant attempt to make all and was beaten barely four langins in a 17-turner field in which she finished shich to Whatevers Right. That was off a mark of 62, the same as todays, and last September at York she beat 23 others of a mark of 70. A course and distance winner beck in April, Hawailt was beaten barely four langins in a big field at Ripon last month, and is now 31b higher than when beating Nombre Mr Naceguy, On the same mark as when Royston Firench got him up on the line to short-head Juvebox live at Newmarket last morth, Ultre Boy has been given every chance in his attempt at a hot-brick. Raisabow Raja's win over a mile at Cartiste in June has been paid compliments by beaten horses Bouchte and Profe Of Pendis, but Rainfow Rain was put in his place in Ben Gunn's race at Newmarket. Sta-Of Pendle, but Rainbow Rain was put in his place in Ben Gunn's race at Newmarket. Sta

	Ogretane Maisey, Willehire.	move back in distance coincides with a return to the course and distance over which he fin-
	2.00 MITSUBISH APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS F) £4,000 added 3YO 1m 100yds Penelty Value £3,111	ished just over three lengths fourth to lang-Direc-Time (disappointing since) back in April, Rein- bow Rain looks marginally the better of Mark Johnston's pair. Selections LADY GODINA
i	1 050-3 STAR TURN (156) (miser Racing) M Bell 9 7	3.30 ORANGE MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (CLASS E) (DIV I) £4,000 added 2YO 5f Penalty Value £2,906
ļ	4 2-005 GIPSY PRINCESS (27) (T A Hughes) M W Essentry 9 6 6 6 Pendin (3) 11. 5 142424 MENDOZA (65) (0) (8d Delente Pertensite) D Mussy Smith 9 3 6 Pensey 6 6 6255 PETITE RISK (10) (K W Hood K Hood 9 2 7 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	1 5 RASHOM VICTOR (CD) (R S G LONEN) T Chibrid IS 7. A Cribinate 8 2 322654 QUIZ MASTER (CL) (Mm R L-Heator) E Wyones 8 7 QUIZ MASTER (CL) (Mm R L-Heator) E Wyones 8 7 T Williams 2 R 3 50030 SNAPPY TIMES (7) U A Wyon-Williams M Dods 8 7 T Williams 2 R
	7 00-05 SHARP DEED (43) Peter Hartmani P Matrin 9.1 B Haville 1.2 8 0-05 RAMBO TANGO (22) (A.S. Blackhant) B Carribdige 9.0 Jones Wands (5) 2	4 O VOSUS BIPERIAL (27) Sir Reginald Shefield P Haston 8 7
	9 000- FREEDOR OF TROY (250) (Dab Hard Ranny ) I Bye 8 11 Stackley (5) 3 10 553025 ROCHEA (27) U Teachie) Ms N Manadey 8 10 P Roberts (3) 5 11 30030 SILENT WALEY (7) 04's S C Concer Miss L Soldel 8 7 T Soldel (5) 10	6 66522 PAISY CILISYTH (33) (RP) (Foreith Cully Racing) M Johnston B 2 B Deple 5 40 BROOMENDES (LDDY (42) (Max D ) Smerry R Hollenshead 7 12 M Carillete 5 8 BLDERSLENE (P ) D Portneys ) Vests 7 12 Processy (3) 11
	12 (54634 MRSS BARCELONIA (129) (M. ) Projento) M. Projento 8 6	9 O HOYLAND COMMON (11) ÜP Herdmen) N Tinkler 7 12
ı	24 332002 STREET LL WOOD HEET, N TO STANDARD	11. 0 YMA (AKMS (36) (David Campbell ) Fire 7 12

	↑ 14 Unclared	- 11 declared -
	BETTING: 5-1 High Spirits, 6-1 Star Yern, 7-1 Gipsy Princess, Messieza, Sharp Dued, Raches, 8-1 Putte Rick, 10-1 others	BETTINE: 7-2 Quiz Master, Patsy Caleyth, 11-2 Brookhouse Lady, 7-1 Gildentieve, 8-1 Sampty Times, 10-1 Festion Victim, Wilton, Wilse Edwington, You Report, 14-1 others
	1996; Falcon's Flomo 8 4 F Lynch 9-2 (Mrs.) Remaden) desen (1.4) 14 ran FORM GUIDE	1996: Double-J B 6 W J O'Connor 7-4 ft far (K McAutifie) drawn (4) 7 rpn FORM GUIDE
	GIPSY PRINCESS ran her best race of the season when fifth to Al Reet at Doncaster last month. From a foundable high claw and from the in-form Mick Easterby yard, she also has the sentence of Glass Parlin, who looks outstanding in this grade. Dropped 2th since her last run, Gipsy Princess can now race off a mark 3th lower than when successful at Cattarick last September. Nacheel Bell's horses are on the way back after a poor first half to the season. On his return to action this month, size Trum firshed third to Selfron Rose over a mile at Northingham. From the ideal draw and off the same mark, the top weight has plenty going for him, almough the ground will be taster. Samspet was a half-length numer-up to the smalledy well-drawn Special-K at the last meeting over ourse and distance. The winner was a handcap sing on his old form but the ground was testing. Samspet's best form has been with some cut and he is less well positioned than last week. Never gains well at Cattaric last time, High Spirits had been commendably consistent in his previous four runs and it will be interesting to see how he fores from stall one.  Selections GIPSY PRINCESS	Miss Eliminator was introduced at Ripon last week in decent maiden company and never got into the lumit from a high draw, beinnd the useful Happy Days Again. Mick Easterby's string could hardly be in better from and this Komaste filly can get off the mark at the second time of asiong, despite a low tox number. On rein-soaked turf at the last Carlisia meeting, sh furlongs represented a good test for juvendes. Fashkinn Victim ran an eye-caching with of 13 to Cettic Comfort, overcoming a starty start to stay on last. The High Easte out started at 50-1 and his quick reappearance suggests that improvement can be expected. Passy Calaryta has been inner-up at Cattarick and Carliste on her last two starts but Mark Johnston's filly has had her share of chances. Quiz Massbur has never been dispaced in seven runs but equally has shown hitle sign of progress. On a line through Qut Lies Magic on his first run, he rates better than Brookkousse Laity.  Selection: MISS ELIMINATOR
1	ROSCH CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £4,500 added 3YO	4.00 SONY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,500 added 2m Penalty Value £3,231
1	2-30   7f 100vds Penalty Value £3,209	1 44-800 RUSKISH RMIDER (181) (RD) (Mrs. Theima White) K Hogs 5 10 0
	The second property state On Tool D Mobile 8 11	2 212121 HASTA LA VISTA (12) (D) (X Hodgsor) M W Easterby 7 9 4
1		3 5(3435 BATARBANIOO (26) (C) IP D Seeli) Mrs M Reveloy 8 8 8
ı	I	4 231036 LOVE NE DO (USA) (11) (M Doyle) M Johnston 3 8 6
1	3 731-01 Common (ed.) to Carlot (ed.) (2 2 4 060126 BOLLERO (44 (89 (87) (an A Bolland)   Bony 8 4 Present (4) 2 0 00 00 Printe DANSENSE (27) (Binding Matters Unit C Dayer 8 3 D 07) Complete (8) 5	S 60011 PLACK KEE BOY (10) (40) Mas Auth, Mastrall, R Basumen 6 8 5Jean McRenne 1 8 6 165142 TANCRED MESCHEF (12) (D) (W G Basker) D Barker 6 8 3Jeany Bernson (7) 10
1		7 - 12034 IRROPELD RZZ (24) (Ms. P.) Taylor-Cathracks) C Factures 5.8.3
1		8 0-0505 ARAM SPRE (15) (D) (Mater West) J Sye 5 7 11
1	SETTING: 8-11 Contion, 3-1 Bullero, 8-1 Signers Flyer, 10-1 Howtons Corner, 12-1 Petite Donseuse,	9 C20004 TOP PRIZE (5) (CO) (Mei Britsin) M Britain 9 7 10
1		10 COSCO- CAN SHE CAN CON (131) (D) (The Hunting Ten Partnership) C Smith 5 7 10 F Horizon 3
J	18-1 Mischierous Inne 1998: Cluncher Culo 3 8 0 T Walliams 4-1 (M. Johnston) diawn (7) 9 Rm	11 000050 SHIP'S DANCER (20) (Don Engle Incise) Entro Incise) Entro Incise 4 7 10

- 11 declared - 11 declared - 11 declared - 12 declared - 13 declared - 14 declared - 15 declared - 15 declared - 16 declared - 17 declared - 18 declared

Another 3to use for his latest win still leaves Hasta La Vista in with a sound chance, but at the revised weights Tancred Mischief can reverse Catentot placings, particularly back on faster ground. However, ARIAN SPRINT has been dropped 18th since lets May, and has every chance of proving too good for Tancred Mischief at today's weights, other finishing behind the Northern State filly at Pottnefract, if back in anything like the form of lest summer.

MESCHIEVOUS TIME is hard to quantify after two runs but has scope to win at the third attempt, her first by beyond five furiongs. See Clarityme gets a good percentage of whiters at two tips and this is easier than last week's run here behind Mary Magisteins in matcher controls; Courtien ownerme a slow start to score at Chester recently. She should reish another chance to try beyond an furiongs, but her starting is not proven and she was well beater chance to try beyond an furiongs, but her starting is not proven and she was well beater chance to try beyond an furiongs, but her starting is not proven and she was well beater of the recent two starts, while Botero disappointed in a Hamilton seller last Friday on a fast surface after numously denying Winter Scout, this hat-trick at Cartiste on easier ground, a fast surface after numously denying Winter Scout, this hat-trick at Cartiste on easier ground. Bollero has the measure of Silvers Piper through Winter Scout, but Silvers Piper made a Selection: MISCHEVOUS TIME

(nb) 4.45 Sharp Imp GOING: Firm STALLS: Imif - outside: 10-4 - inside GOING: Firm. STALLS: Intel - ottestes; red - irede.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best over 16 & 6.

III Left.hand. I salapted course, unduluing and churp.

If tourse p E of tours. Follow appropriate from Lower course. Brighton statem in the or events from London, Victoria). ADMISSION: Carbatter in the course of the first internals Si; Pienie Cur Park

11. (accompanied under 16s free; Internals Si; Pienie Cur Park

14 inc 15 per (21). CAR PARK: Free. STIME 31 PT (ST. CAR PARK) PICE. SLOKKERED PIRST TIME: Goldenseres (2.45)

BLIREARED FIRST TIMES, WOMENDER'S (2.46) & Mr. WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS, Sooty Term (3.46) & Mr. TO DETERMINE SET THE MORE DEVINED DATE: SOUTH THE CO. 40 / 4 ME. COME (4 M.) won at Elemen on Wednesday.

LING-DESTANCE EUNNERS: Blook (4,15) has been sent 163 miles the first from Nicholashayare, Devon; Goldenarces (2,45) sent 161 miles in J Neville from Coediernew, (1978).

2.15 OF EASO added 240 6f 5 DESTRUCT VINETAGE (73) R Harmon 9 0. R Hughes 2 1
35 MYSTRIN GUEST (13) Sr M Prescott 9 0. 6 Darfield 6 2

2.15 LITTLE FIZZ (nap) 2.45 Persian Venture 3.15
Rader O'Reilly 3.45 Apolio Red 4.15 Double Eight
Rader O'Reilly 3.45 Apolio Red 4.15 Double Eight

2.45 STEINE CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 2YO 7f DIAMERA W G M Turner 8 8 M Turner 8 8 D Noberfin (7) 8

U1.652 PERSAMI FORTUNE (1,4 W G M Turner 8 8 D Sweaper (5) 5

600 HUGGER HAUGGER (29) J Arnold 8 3 A Wheten (5) 2 8

600 CHMA SHAN (21) 8 Yeart 8 1 J Friends (5) 1 = 9 decigned ~ BETTING: 11-4 Persian Fortuna, 3-1 Private Seal, 9-2 Persian Venture, 8-1 Setzen, Estopped, 7-1 Guiteneuries, 18-1 Chiles Sine, 20-1 others

3.15 WATERHALL MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS E) £4,025 added 3YO 7F

3.45 ERIC SIMMS MEMORIAL HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 1m 

-8 declared -BETTING: 3-1 Souty Para, 4-1 Constructer, 5-2 Apollo Red, 5-1 Fort Knox, 13-2 Night Whit, 7-1 Victory Team, 8-1 Mandel, 14-1 Chairmann Choice

4.15 FRIEND-JAMES MEMORIAL LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 1m 4f 

4.45 HANNINGTONS OF BRIGHTON HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 addied 7f
1 111153 BARBASON (1) (CD) G (1 Mores 5 9 12 \_\_\_\_\_Candy Mores 12 0.0600 CRISTAL HEIGHTS (FR) (63) (CD) R (0.0600 9 9 11 \_\_\_\_\_\_ 

AYR 

4.15:1 BLESSHNGHDISGUISE (TUCAS)
7:2 f lav. 2. Cross The Border 7:2 f lav.
3. Rich (Bow 5-1.9 ran. 1/4. 1/4. IM W Eastexty, Sternit Hutton. Totat: £4.30; £2.00.
£2.60, £1.40, Df; £9.40, CSF; £1.48. Thcast: £7.24. Tho: £22.70.
4.46: 1. NOUFARE (F Lynch) 3-1; 2. Florestino 4-5 fax. 3. Sed Nead Band 10-1. 4
ran. 1. 14. IR Holmsheed, Upper Longdon).
Totat: £3.80, DF; £2.60, CSF; £5.58.
Placeport: £42.30, Outdood: £38.30.
Placeport: £42.30. Outdood: £38.30. Piacepot: £42.30, Quadpot: £38,10 Place 6: £25.61, Place 5: £23.56.

FOLKESTONE POLKESTONE

2.00: 1. COUNTRY GARDEN (R Pehram) 138 for; 2. Than 6-1; 3. Anna 7: 2. 6 ran. 174,
18 for; 1. Than 6-1; 3. Anna 7: 2. 6 ran. 174,
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52.40, £1.10. DF: £5.20, GSF: £6.07. Nm. ZOTA.

5.30: 1. KING KATO (Gaye Harwood) 5-6 fay; 2. La Caramaia! 7-4; 3. Franch Effect 7-1. 4 ran. 1/4. 3. Mars A Perent, Puborough). Total: £1.50. DF: £1.20. GSF: £2.48. Include: £1.100.00 (part worn pool of £2.105.63 canted forward to Benericy today). Please £1.20. 20. Quadpot: £60.90. Please & £61.98. Please £45.11. WINDSOR 6.30: 1. MURILE () Hoteroff 11-8 (av. 2. Le Grand Gousler 9-2: 2. Running Free 33-1. 10 Fac. Hd. V. (8 Hils). Totar 12.80: 61.20, 12.10, 13.50. DF: 64.50, CSF: 66.34. Totar 235.80.

RACING RESULTS 7.00; 1. MISS ZAFONIC (Pat Eddey) 7-2 It fax; 2. Dodo 8-1; 3. Jay Gee 25-1, 21 ran, 7-2 pt fay Seda (4th), ½, 3½, (R Hannon), Robe: £4.10; £1.90, £2.50, £7.00, DF: £1.80, £2.20, DF; £19.60, CSF; £36.01. Tricc £30.00. After a stawards inquiry, the pisc-Ings remained unalitered.

5.00: 1. STANR (C Rutter) 5-4 fax; 2. Trooper 7-2: 3. Tellion 100-30.5 rate. Nr. 114. (H Candy, Wartinge). Total: 51.80; 52.40, 51.10. DF: 25.20, CSF: £6.07. NR. 70m. £12.80, CSP: £27.08, Tric: £274.60, NR: Quz

\$12.80 (SF-127 DB, INC 2274.00 NR. Qu. \$100.

7.30: 1. SR TALBOT () Quint) 5-1; 2. Future Perfect 6-1; 3. The Dilections 5-1.9 nm. 11-4 for Valca. 1/4. 3. (R Harmon), Total 55-10; 11.90, 11.90, 12.10. DF: \$23.10. SF: \$24.18. Timeser £148.29. The: £41.90, NR: 8st On The Side. WOLVERHAMPTON

WOLVERHAMPTON

8.45:1. ORDOG MOR IA P McCoyl 1-4

6x; 2. Inagonaschine 15-1; 3. Miss Soutier

12-1. 6 ran. Det. 4. (M Meagher). Totar

51-20; 51-20, 52-40, DF: \$4.50. CSF:

55.08. WR Whooleruls Energy.

7.15:1. FINAL PRIDE (F. Johnson). 1-5 faz.

2. While Court 11-1; 3. Temple Garths 10-1.

4 ran. 6, dist. (P Bowen). Tota: £1.10. DF:

\$2.20, CSF: £2.94.

The jockey John Egan was suspended and fined by the Folkestone stewards yesterday. After riding the Simon Dow-trained Lancashire Legend into second spot in the 4.30 race, the jockey was suspended for four days from for careless riding. However, the stewands also took a dim view of the fact that the rider failed to attend their inquiry and fined him £200 for leaving the course early.

Luso, runner-up to Shantou in other Group One contest in Düs- work." Brittain said.

seldorf on Sunday week. Clive Brittain, trainer of the five-year-old son of Salse, said yesterday that the 12-furlong WGZ Bank Deutschland-Preis is the horse's next target. Munich is the next stop for Luso's stable companion Needle Gun, who tackles the mile and a quarter Grosser Dallmayr Preis-Bayerisches Zuchtrennen on 3 August, Plans for Amfortas are also being formulated. The Caerleon colt has not run this season because the Gran Premio di Milano on his of an injury. "He is sound again and most recent start, is to tackle an- has been doing a lot of steady



prar

THE OPEN: Troon is bracing itself for Tigermania, which will prove a stem test for organisers and tempers, writes Andy Farrell

## Crowds making golf a dangerous game



Centre of attention: Spectators eager to pick the best vantage points for the first day of the Open on Thursday, follow Tiger Woods on his practice round at Troon yesterday

Photograph: David Ashdown

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They called it the Ab- history of the courses on the Open their way along the beach, thousands of people managed to bypass the admission gates and gain free entry to watch Arnold Palmer win his second suc-

The championship had not seen crowds like it ever before. As Palmer marched to victory, so the inadequate number of marshals failed to contain the mass of humanity that followed behind. All the competitors were affected, not least Palmer, who had to wait to play on every shot.

"There were virtual stampedes as uncontrollable crowds raced along the fairways to gain the next vantage point," wrote Keith Mackie in his

erdeen Gate. By making rota. "One unfortunate golf-writing colleague was flattened in the rush and several people literally ran over him before he could regain his feet. That night, he discovered the clear imprint of spike marks in his

> That was at Troon in 1962. The Royal & Ancient, the organisers of the Open, took heed and realised that in order to produce the best tournament in the world, it had to be the best run. But 35 years on, the R&A face perhaps their biggest test since Arnie's Army went on the rampage. Tigermania came to Ayrshire yesterday, when the youngest-ever US Masters champion arrived for his first Open as a professional.

than usual for a Monday of Open week, most headed out to watch Tiger Woods, although the world No 1 threw a dummy to some of them by setting off for a practice round an hour earlier than expected.

Woods has a police escort with him

this week, as well as four specially detailed stewards. Golf, perhaps, offers the best access to autograph hunters, but Greg Norman talked last week about having the "security blanket" thrown over him more often. "People think they know you from all the media exposure," Norman said. "It has changed in the last couple of years. I have feared for my safety at

It is part of playing the star game. All that media exposure helps sells While the crowd was no bigger Norman's clothing collection and

Woods' Nike line. But it is one thing getting around off the course, another when spectator involvement disrupts proceedings on the course. The most vivid image of the US Open is of Colin Montgomerie standing with his arms raised on the 17th green at Congressional, waiting in vain for the crowd to settle.

"It was the rowdiest gallery I think I have ever seen," Davis Love said. "It's becoming more like a base-ball game or a basketball game, where people think they can yell or say anything they want

Tigermania has brought in new golf fans and Woods appreciates that nany of them are unfamiliar with the etiquette of the game. "It would be like me going to watch cricket," he' his round for a physical one-on-one

Norman says alcohol is a problem and sales should be restricted. It was probably the cause of the barracking Montgomerie received after a rain delay on the second day at Consional. A Washington radio station received a call on the Saturday morning from a group who said they had been partying all night and were now going out to "harass

We definitely want people to enjoy themselves, but yelling at the players has never been a part of the game," Love said. It is not a new phenomenon, however. Norman, who was involved in an incident at the Kemper Open last month, once asked a spectator to join him after

But at Lytham last year, Tom Lehman was spurred on by a "choking" reference from a spectator. "When I see a player get mad at a fan," Lehman said, "I want to tell them: 'What's your problem? Shake

You don't have to like him, either.' According to David Fay, the executive director of the US Golfers' Association: "Golf still has the best code of behaviour of any sport, you can't have 30,000 mannequins. It stands to reason that the atmosphere will probably be less restrained. I don't see any way to reverse that."

Few crowds are more knowledgeable than those that attend the Open. Lehman recalled playing at and misfrom the pin. "The crowd watching me didn't applaud because they knew I did not hit it well and just got

lucky," he said. "They know golf. Although picnickers from the Marine Hotel may still have lain out it off.' So what if he doesn't like you. their rugs on the 17th green for a while after the Troon course opened? in 1878, those north of the border are more versed than any in the stickand-ball game. "Scottish fans are the

> Norman said. What they make of Woods this week will be interesting. The canmest will no doubt realise that rather than fight for the smallest glumpse of the Tiger, there are plenty of other talented golfers on show to be

best in the world to play before,"

## Ulazadai advances with a spring in his step

your eyes have to drop downwards. His whippy, youthful swing may have conjured the perfect arc on the ball, yet the extent of his limp intrudes on

your appreciation. It is inquisitiveness laced with concern and something the Spaniard understands. In your position, he would be looking. too. As recently as last month's US Open, his feet rather than his scores also preoccupied him, the pain shooting up his legs a reminder of the 18 months during which he feared

week, yet few will be as grate-

one," Olazabal said of his mood 12 months ago, when what he hought was rheumatoid arthriing impossible. "I thought I might never play golf again. I had to watch the Open on television and the situation was not

very pleasant at all."
That is an understatement. Olazabal, the Masters champion of 1994, appeared to be crossing the threshold into the height of his powers when he was struck

You cannot help yourself. be many players thankful to be Watch Jose-Maria Olazabal and at Royal Troon for the Open this to seal his return to health with victory

> the Lancome Trophy in Sep- arthritis, but a long-distance tember 1995, after which he entered into a period of treatment that made his condition worse.

Indeed Olazabai, 31, would probably be burning with frustration watching events from Troon on the small screen this week had he not taken one last shot at recuperation. A friend from his amateur days recommended a doctor in Munich,

"The picture was a very dark down. His last, agonising at- on his spinal column. The pain tempt at a tournament had been in his toes was not rheumatoid

> "All the nerves in your body run through your spine," he said, "and if the gap between the vertebrae is not wide enough, some of them get pinched. The right information was not get-

> ting to my legs."
> Those wires were disentantumn to Dr Hans Wilhelm Mulier-Wolfhart became three

came burgeoning hope. Olazabal spent up to six hours a day reconstructing his muscles and four months ago he introduced

himself to the European Tour. His results since - 26th was his worst place until he missed the cut at Loch Lomond last week - would have been satisfactory for almost anyone, but for someone who had not played golf for 18 months, it was staggering. "I don't have a clue why I was in contention straight away," he said. "I thought I'd need a lot of time to feel comfortable on a golf

course, so it was a surprise to me

Olazabal, to wholescale that everything is on my side. amazement, is such a genuine contender at Troon this week , will be the first time he has played that the ambitions he voiced yes-terday can not be dismissed as fanciful. "When you come to a missed cut at Loch Lomond looking for second or third position, you are looking for a win. The Open is special. Somehow, when I tee off in this tourna-

ment it feels different to any other in the world. "Anybody who has gone through tough situations gets more mature. I've arrived at the Open a few times striking the ball even better than I am now,

tournament like this, you are not rankled. His driving had let him down, he said. "I would have loved to have been in contention, it would have been the best thing for this week." The ache in his foot and the exercises to soothe it linger, but it is a measure of how far Olaz-abal has travelled that tee shots,

Well, almost everything. This

three tournaments in successive

weeks since his comeback and his

rather than the shortest walk trouble him now. His limp yesterday? There



Alison Nicholas claims the biggest prize in women's golf after narrowly beating Nancy Lopez Photograph: AFP

Nicholas swings high to eclipse an idol ly poignant about Alison Nicholas's one-shot victory over

her idol, Nancy Lopez, in the

women's US Open at Pumpkin Ridge on Sunday night. For it was Lopez who per-suaded Nicholas she was good enough for the US Tour when the English professional thought she would not return. And it is 40-year-old Lopez, the idol of the masses, who has still never won a US Open - the biggest prize in women's golf.

This was the fourth time she has finished runner-up. Lopez it was who put the LPGA and women's professional golf on the map 20 years ago, when she burst on to the scene by winning 17 tournaments in her first two seasons.

She has 48 career victories. moment of triumph Nicholas.

brought up in Yorkshire, gra-ciously deferred to the icon she had beaten, as the tears of sor-

row flowed from Lopez. "I can understand the crowds wanted Nancy to win, but they supported me just as much," Nicholas said. "Nancy is a great champion, a great legend of the game and it was a privilege to

play with her." Nicholas's victory was all the more remarkable considering that she did not take up the game until she was 17. Until then tennis had been the main sporting preoccupation, but her diminutive stature - she is just 5ft - was proving a problem and she switched allegiance. On the solf course her size was far less of an impediment, and within two years she was down to scratch.

Sixteen years later she has With typical sensitivity in a her joined her sport's élite, after remaining calm during a thrilling who was born in Gibralta but final day's play. Nicholas, who

Liz Kahn on the British golfer who beat her mentor to claim the US Open

is known as a tidy, accurate and and only at the 14th did her consistent golfer, is pound for pound one of the longest strikers off the tee, and was sometimes, to the amazement of the crowds, ahead of Lopez.

All the same, Sunday's victory required all Nicholas's fighting qualities, and even when she ea-gled the long fourth by pitching straight into the hole, she allowed herself only a sober salute of acknowledgement.

Paired with Lopez, Nicholas was three ahead going into Sunday's round and the American flung out a birdie from three feet at the first. While Nicholas eagled the fourth, Lopez birdied and still found herself trailing by three shots. With precious little between them, Nicholas remained ahead

nerves jangle, as she wedged 20 yards over the green into some

jungle-like rough. A penalty drop gave her a double-bogey and cut her lead to one shot. A duffed chip meant that Nicholas bogeyed the 17th but, having found sand, so did Lopez and the American remained one shot behind. After two booming drives at the 18th the pair were still neck and neck, but Nicholas played the better second to the fringe, while Lopez had to chip from the right rough to 15 feet. The crowd was willing her to sink it to go into a play-off, after Nicholas had putted to a foot, but Lopez felt

the tears pricking as her shot slithered past the hole. "It was really fun. It's just a fan-

tastic feeling to walk down those fairways trying to win the US Women's Open and I enjoyed every minute of it," Lopez said. Nicholas hugged her caddie, Mark Fulcher, who was un-

doubtedly a key figure in her victory. A recent partnership, Fulcher used to caddie for Laura Davies. He is known for his positive outlook and is one of the best in the trade.

Mickey Walker, the former Solheim Cup captain, was quick to praise the performance of one of her team. "I was not surprised to see Ali win. She has been working very hard on her fitness and mental ability with trainer, Paul Darby, on her swing with Lawrence Farmer," Walker said. "Her biggest weakness used to be moaning and being down on herself. The way she carried herself and her whole demeanour last week, was most im-

Nicholas's breakthrough came when she won the 1983 British Strokeplay (she has also been a Yorkshire champion). but she was overlooked for the 1984 Curtis Cup and turned

professional The first of her 12 victories as a professional came in the 1987 women's Open over the tough St Mellion course. Always a stalwart of the Solheim Cup in partnership with her great friend Davies - who stayed on to cheer Nicholas home at Pumpkin Ridge, despite having missed the

cut herself. Nicholas did not enjoy her first spell on the American tour in 1990, but Lopez was instrumental in persuading her to re-turn in 1993 and she was rewarded with two victories in 1995. Her friendship with Betsy King in America has all taken Nicholas into the circle of Christians in Sport.

## Keast climbs ladder at Quins as Worcester lure Cusworth

**Rugby Union** 

Andy Keast, technical coach to the Lions in South Africa, and Les Cusworth, the England assistant eaach, both took on new coaching roles yester-

Keast has been promoted to director of rugby at Harlequins as the London club introduce a southern hemisphere-style coaching system. He coached

at Worcester.

all coaching and playing matters at The Stoop, while contractual and financial arrangements will be left to the chief execu-

tive. Donald Kerr. Keast's promotion backroom comes as Quins attempt to "streamline" club business

Quins to third place in the in the wake of Dick Best's the director of rugby to con-league and to the Pilkington sudden departure at the end of centrate his efforts on playing chairman at The Stoop. The 40-Cup semi-final last season. Cusworth takes the same job title at Worcester.

Cup semi-final last season. Cusworth takes the same job title England coach, was sacked by that the business management of the squad continues on a Keast will be responsible for year rolling contract after dis-

> Keast said: "I hope I can fill the void left by Dick Best's departure. Dividing the squad management responsibilities in this way is designed to enable

hemisphere have found such a and HTV. system to be beneficial to both players and the club. It is important that we streamline the from England's one-off Test club to keep up with the mod-

Meanwhile, Malcolm Wall sign today with last season's the terms were right. I think he

vear-old former Ouins lock is the deputy director of United of the squad continues on a Broadcasting and Entertain-sound footing. Broadcasting and Entertain-ment, which owns the ITV.

> The appointment of Cus-worth, who has just returned with Australia in Sydney, is a ma-jor coup for Worcester. He will

Courage Division Four champions after several meetings with Worcester's multi-million-

aire backer, Cecil Duckworth Mike Robins, the club chairsound footing.

ment, which owns the ITV man, said: "We are starting to companies Anglia, Meridian attract top-class players and you must get the best coach for them. They don't come much better than Les.

"He did not take much per-England job is part-time and, if

was looking to get involved in the game at club level. This role would be prepared to let him

Worcester had also been in negotiations with the former England full-back Jonathan to the club." Callard for the post but his club, Bath, refused to release the player from his contract.

Worcester will be happy to allow Cusworth to continue as stading to come here. The Jack Rowell's No 2 if he is reappointed by England. Robins said: "He did say

carry on with England and we were more than happy to say yes'. It would give great kudos

Cusworth, who will meet the Worcester players for the first time at this evening's training session, began his rugby career with Wakefield before joining (7) Moseley. He then moved to Leicester whence he gained a dozen England caps.

## Prancing Horse overshadows Williams' celebrations



Song and dance: Damon Hill celebrates his first point with Chris de Burgh on Sunday night

DERICK ALLSOP

They partied deep into the evening and had every right to.
One hundred grand prix wins at a strike rate substantially su-perior to that of Formula One's other centurions, McLaren and Ferrari, fittingly completed at Silverstone, scene of their first success, represents emphatic confirmation of Williams' place in motor racing's annals.

But even as they drank to Jacques Villeneuve's victory in Sunday's British Grand Prix, the sense of impending eclipse pervaded the atmosphere. Perhaps they recognised an omen. In 1979, the year of Williams' maiden win. Ferrari had their last world champion. Events at Silverstone appear to have diverted few from the belief that Michael Schumacher will ride the Prancing Horse to the title

Schumacher's pace, before a wheel-bearing failure brought him to a halt, provided further proof of Ferrari's advance and caused the Williams hierarchy to temper their celebrations. Frank Williams, who founded the company 19 years ago, paid tribute to those who had contributed to the winning formula, yet admitted he was relieved to bank the points from this race.

The season has followed the precise course he feared. Schumacher, the man he and most others acknowledge as a class apart, has been given a suffi-ciently improved Ferrari to outmanoeuvre his drivers, despite the fact that the Williams-Renault is still the best in the field.

Patrick Head, Williams part-ner, said: "It is going to be a tremendously hard struggle against Michael between now and the end of the year."

Heinz-Harald Frentzen was recruited, at the expense of Damon Hill, to resist Schumacher's challenge. Another miserable day at Silverstone, where he stalled on the grid and collided with another car and went out on the first lap, dealt more blows to his reputation and apparently left Villeneuve to carry the championship fight alone.

end it was "probable" he would have the same drivers on board next year and that, therefore, it was likely he would not have a vacancy for Hill, although it was "possible" he might welcome back the 1996 world champion

be alone if he is wondering how different it might be if he had the Englishman now - or whether he ought to engineer

his return in 1998. Hill's first point for Arrows-Yamaha helped repair his image and recover some of his ses in Formula One's stockmarket. He must, however, be wary he does not price himself out of contention for a seat with

Sunday's result appears to have done little to improve the situation at Arrows. It is thought both parties wish to split, the driver to find a more competitive car and the team to invest his £4.5m salary in research and development. Both consider the alliance a mistake and want to avoid losing face, so they are expected to part "by

"Winning [a point] yesterday was very pleasing and I was delighted by the crowd's reaction." Hill said on Monday, However, long term, it is not enough. There's always going to be agitation when the car is not do-

ing as well as it should. Tom Walkinshaw, the Arrows team manager] is keen to get results, but to be honest, I can't make something of nothing. I need a decent car. Tom is very cagey about what he has up his sleeve. It would be helpful if I had some idea of his intentions."

Paddock gossip indicates Hill has a new job lined up, but every source tends to point in a different direction. Some say Sauber, some McLaren, some Prost. Some tell you he is seek-ing \$10m (£6.25m) for his services, which might, of course, explain the contradictory stories.

It might also discourage would be employers.

A new generation of drivers has arrived in Formula One. They are young, talented, enthusiastic, committed - and cheap. Arrows are not alone in realising you need not spend fortunes on drivers, unless, that is, you can afford Schumacher.

Benetton are understood to he unloading the experienced and well-paid Jean Alesi, sec-ond on Sunday, and Gerhard Berger, to bring in Giancarlo Fisichella and Alexander Wurz. who was third at Silverstone as Berger's understudy. The word is that Alesi will be a direct swap

for Fisichella, moving to Jordan. Hill. 37 in September, will be anxious not to miss out in the shuffle this time. Much could depend on the value he attaches to racing fulfilment.

## **Bastille Day** misery for **Boardman**

ROBIN NICHOLL

with the Tour de France

Chris Boardman was among the casualties when the Tour de France exploded like a Bastille Day firecracker in the mountain mists of the Pyrenees yesterday. The British rider finished the 182 kilometres with two displaced vertebrae after crashing on the descent from the first of four mountains.

Almost 28 minutes after a jubilant Laurent Brochard celebrated the national festival with victory at Loudenvielle, Boardman rode in with a group containing Britain's other hope.

After a hospital check, Boardman said he would continue the Tour. "If it had been any other race I would be going home," he said. "I have stressed the back of my neck, and it is difficult to turn my head. Otherwise I don't foresee any problems."

Since his Tour debut three years ago Boardman has been dogged by trouble. In 1995 he crashed minutes into the opening time trial in Brittany, fracturing his ankle and wrist. Then last year he suffered a digestive

orgaching (eam cars deni tle visibility in the fog around the Col du Soulor.

"I made the mistake of watchly the road turned green, Boardman said. "I rode up a disappointed. The Tourmalet is one of the alised that I could not ride 130 kilometres on my own, especially with a mountainous 250 kilometres to race next day, so I

waited for a group of riders." Boardman is now 27 minutes and 54 seconds behind his GAN colleague, Cedric Vasseur, who saved his yellow jersey of Tour leader by 13 seconds. The Frenchman arrived in the finishing straight with thousands of compatriots quietly counting down the time difference between him and the German Jan Ullrich until Vasseur crossed the

finish line. Now Ullrich, second last year in his first Tour. is poised for the famous colours. He finished fourth vesterday behind Richard Virenque, of France, and Marco Pantani, of Italy. They were 14 seconds behind Brochard, who fought off all-comers, including the three chasers, to claim the biggest vic-

tory of his racing life. Úllrich was guarding Brochard's team-mate, Virenque, who fired off attacks that eventually shook Bjarne Riis, the 1997 Tour victor, out of a leading group as they tackled the final mountain, the Col d'Aspin.

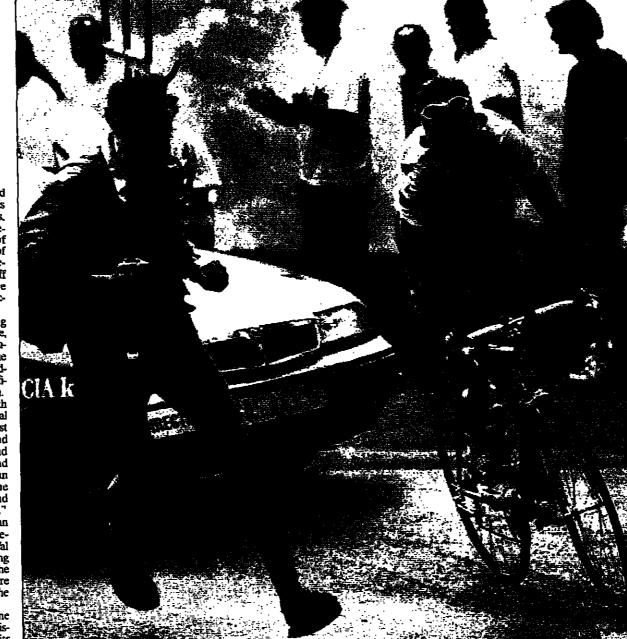
Riis was not dismayed with the outcome: "It is quite normal for me to have a difficult first stage in the mountains. I had problems on the last climb, and when Virenque attacked I had to let him go. Fortunately Jan [Ullrich] had a superb day. The real Tour is just beginning, and

there is still a long way to go." Boardman had predicted "an explosion" and the human deis was scattered along the Val du Louron with riders finishing more than half an hour after the podium ceremony. Two were eliminated for failing to beat the time limit and five retired.

The test of the day was the Yesterday as Boardman was Tourmalet, where the road risthe main group, there was lit- 18 kilometres were covered with encouraging graffiti and fans of all nations, who had camped out overnight. They had ing another rider, and suddence to see the suffering and the courage, and they were not

> "giants" in Tour history. In 1913 Eugene Christophe contributed to the stories surrounding it. He arrived at the top with a massive lead but broke his front forks and had to walk 13 kilometres to St Marie de Campan at the foot of the mountain. There he repaired his forks in the village smithy, but was penalised by an official for accepting "outside help"; a young lad bad pumped the forge bellows.

For those who suffer in the Tour. Christophe could be their



Yesterday's stage winner, Laurent Brochard, is pursued to the line by one of the Tour's characters

patron saint. He was the first man to wear the vellow iersey +27:57.

man to wear the yellow jersey when it was introduced in 1919. but his chance of keeping it van-ished when again his forks broke. This time there was no smithy and he lost three hours. In 1922 his forks let him down again, but, undeterred he raced on using

undeterred. he raced on using the bike of a parish priest.

TOUR DE FRANCE Ninth stage (182im, Pau to Valde Louron; 1.1 Brochard (F) Februs Shr 24ms 57sec; 2 R Vienque IF) Februs Shr 24ms 57sec; 2 R Vienque IF) Festins 1-15sec; 3 M Parism II to Merstore Unit.

4 J Ulhich (Gert Telekom both same time; 5 J M Jimerer (Sp) Banesto +41. 6 L Dufaux (Swife Festins; 7 F Excarin (Sp) Kehne; 3 B Ris (Den) Telekom all same time; 9 F Casagande (I) Saeco +107; 10 A Olano (So) Banesto; 11 J Laukid (Fin) Festins; 12 R Continuity of the Continuity of the Section (Sp) Banesto +1026; 14 O Camerand (Swift Mape +200; 15 L Madouas (F) Lotto +204; 14 B D Nartielo (I) Maper; 17 B Zberg (Swift Mercaure Uno all same time: 18 M Fincato II) Rosolto +257: 29; 19 P Lino (Fin Ng Mar Auther 93; 20 C Vasseur (Fr) GAN all same time. Others: 29 L Jalabert (Fr) CNCE +5:37;

127:57.
Overall standings: 1 Vasseur 47hr 14mn
35ser; 2 Unrich +13 ser; 3 Olano +1:14; 4
Ris+1:43; 5 Virenque +1:43 6 Escartin
+2:14; 7 Camenzind +2:27; 8 Distair
+2:48; 9 Nardello +3:49; 10 Brocheri
+4:04; 11 Madouss +4:05; 12 lung +4:09;
13 P Luttenberger (Auf Rabobank +4:13; 14
+C Robin (fr) US Postal Service +4:25; 15
Pantani +4:34.41. Others: 17 Jalabert
+5:46; 41, Zabel +15:32; 72 Boardman
+27:54; 96 Soandin +34:53.
Potnts standings: 1 Zabel 242pts; 2 F Moncassin (fr) GAN 173; 3 J Bisjecens (Neth) TVM
159; 4 N Mrall (t) BAT 121; 5 R McGwen
(Aus) Rabobank 112; 6 M Traverson (t) Mercatice Uno 111; 7 F Smon (Fr) GAN 106; 8
A Baffi (t) US Postal Service 84; 9 F Batisto
(it) MAG 76; 10 N Jaiabert (Fr) COF 69.
King of the mountains standings: 1 Broched (It) MAG 76; 10 N. Jalabert (Frt COF 69). King of the mountains standings: 1 Brochard 110pts; 2 Viranque 100; 3 Ullinch 66; 4 P Herv (Frt Festina 62; 5 Dufaux 46; 6 J Pascual (5g) Keime 40; 7 U Bohs (Gen Telekom 40; 8 Pantars 38; 9 Casagrande 36, 10 Jimenez 30.
Toens standings: 1 Telekom 141nr 48min 4sec; 2 Festina +1-25; 3 Barreson +4-24; 4 Mercators Uno +6-55; 5 Mayos. +1-3-39; 6 Keime +15-24; 7 US Postal Service +18-34; 10 ONCE +25:17.





## **Baulch pips Black for the** spare place

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

Britain's selectors yesterday shut the door on their Olympic 400 metres silver medallist and team captain, Roger Black, as they awarded the third individual place at next month's World Championships to Jamie Baulch.

The 23-year-old Welshman, who finished third behind the new British record holder, Iwan Thomas, and Mark Richardson in Sunday's world trials, left Birmingham hoping his time of 45.02sec would be sufficient to get the trip to Athens.

A British Athletic Federation insider confirmed yesterday that the selectors agreed with him, a decision which is due to be announced today.

Black, 31, has been out of action with a virus infection since disappointing run in the British Grand Prix on June. He had arranged to test his fitness in Hechtel, Belgium, on Saturday, three days inside the deadline for team selection.

Before sitting out the weekend's trials, Black said he was hoping for the right roll of the dice. Now it appears that his game is over without him having had a turn.

his ability will be vital in mounting a serious challenge to the American holders of the title The decision will clearly have satisfied Baulch, who said on

Sunday that he felt he had proved himself over three rounds of racing, even though he had not been able to break 45 seconds. Thomas, who lowered brselassie, by design.

Black's 1996 British mark by 0.01sec to 44.36sec, and Richardson, who maintained his consistent form with a time of 44.82, both backed Baulch, while paying tribute to the help and inspiration Black has provided for everyone in the event.

Britain's 400m men will, as expected, be likely to face Michael Johnson in Athens following yesterday's confirmation by the International Amateur Athletic Federation

that defending champions from 1995 will be given wild cards to compete in Athens.

That opens the way for a number of athletes, many of them American, to take part despite failing to qualify in their national trials.

Johnson, who could contest both the 200 and 400m in Athens, pulled out of a meeting in Stuttgart on Sunday because he has still not recovered from the injury which kept him out of the US trials.

But his agent, Brad Hunt, said yesterday that Johnson would be at the World Championships, as would Dan O'Brien and Gwen Torrence. whom he also represents. "They will be there," he said.

By the same token Jonathan Edwards, Britain's only champion from 1995, need not prove his fitness to the British selectors having missed the trials with

Wild cards will be given to champions at all World Championships in the future and the idea is to be extended to indoor and cross-country champi-

If their national teams agree. defending champions will also be allowed to switch events. But in that case each country would Black will nevertheless be in- still only be allowed to field the cluded in the relay team, where maximum three athletes per

This unprecedented move has been championed by the IAAF president, Primo Nebiolo, who has seen the marketing impact of his favourite event diminished by the absence of high profile athletes, either through misfortune. or in the case of those such as Marie-Jose Perec and Haile Ge-

Gebrselassie, who regained his 10,000m world record 11 days ago, confirmed yesterday that he would not compete in Athens because it was too

"I competed the Atlanta Olympics 10,000 metres event suffering great injuries with blood flowing from my soles," he said. "It took me a long time to recover from that injury and I do not want to undergo sim-

#### Becker draws the crowds

Boris Becker is winding down his career, but the three-times Wimbledon champion is still a magnet for the public when he plays in Germany.

Over 3.000 people watched

him practice yesterday for a tournament he has never won, the Mercedes Cup in Stuttgart. Becker plays his opening game today, but his fellow German, Marc Goellner, is already through to the second round, having overcome Richey Rencherg, when the American was forced to retire in the third

set because of back problems.

\* THE INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL LIVE COMMENTARY 0891 881 485

COUNTY **ROUND UP** 0891 525 075

#### Rodman debut in wrestling

Basketbail

Dennis Rodman knocked down the referee and kicked him out of the ring. But he did not have to worry about a fine from the NBA commissioner, David

The Chicago Bulls bad boy made his professional wrestling debut at Daytona Beach, Florida on Sunday in a venue where the only rules were no biting, no eye-gouging and no throwing wrestlers past the first row of spectators.

However, Rodman, who is 6ft Sin and 220 pounds, and his tag-team partner, Hulk Hogan, lost to Lex Luger and Giant, who stands at 7ft 4in, in the World Championship match.

The 25-minute hout ended after Luger got Hogan in a "tor-ture rack" submission hold above his head. "I'm very tired, but I made it," Rodman said. When asked if he would do it again, he said, "Of course, of course."

Donning black nail polish and glitter, rouge and stripes on his face, Rodman posed for pictures with Hogan before the match. The bout was aired on pay-per-

"It ain't about being big or strong. It's about having it in the head," Rodman said. "I'm not one-dimensional."

DASSENDERN AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 2 Toronto 3; Bal-timore 4 Miterature 5; NY Yambees 1 Detroit 3; Kansas City 6 Chicago White Sox 7; Min-nesota 5 Caveland 12; Oakland 3 Anahern 5; Seottle 2 Texas 4. Seottle 2 Texas 4.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Pittsburgh 5 Houston 3;
Chotmati 0 Montheal 2; Chicago Cubs 5 St Louis
11; Colorado 11 San Diego 13; Los Angeles
9 San Paranasco 3; Florida 9 Philiadelphio 3;
Atlanta 6 NY Mets 7.

GREENALL'S WATERLOO HANDICAP (Black-pool): Second round wismens: N Balshow (Burscough, S Heaseigrave (Shetheld), I Hambiston (Bardesistell, M Britton (Scholes), R Moham (Barrow in Furness), T Mochem (Barrow in Furness), T Mochem (Barrow in Furness), T Mochem (Sale), A Rejecy (Keghley), G Bis (Whitekid), W Forshow (Burscough), T Johnstone (Warrington), B Naylor (Ashton in Makertield).

TETLEY BITTER PESTIVAL TROPHY (Scan-borough): President's XI 168 for 9 (D C Boon 59; R I Sadebottom 5-27; 50 overs); Yorkshire 169 for 5 / M McGarth 52, M D Moson 51; C Z Hams 4-26) Yorkshire won by five wick-

ets.

AON RISK TROPHY (one day): Berreall Hill:
Durham 261 for 9 IR M S Weston 94. J A Daley 791; Yorksher 15.3 IR A Kertisborough 511.
Durham won by 108 rms. Tauston: Glouestersture 292 for 9 if H C Hancock 122, N J
Iranor 63; M E Tresorback 4-551; Sommerst
231 (P D Bowler 63, RI Turner 5 0; RI Dawson 4-41). Glouesstersthre won by 61 runs.

ASIA CUP (Colombol): Sri Larka 239 (M S Aapatru 80: 49 overs): Pateston 224 for 9 (Salm M28): 57; S T Lysasunya 4-49; 50 overs).

Sri Lanka won by 15 runs.

Football

FA UMBRO TROPHY First Round qualifying 113 Oct; Stafford Rangers v Hinddey United Moor Green v Afherstore United; Buston v Anfeton southers United; Buston v Anfeton Towns Bedworth United v Stockstnidge Park Steeks; Sothall Borough v Shepshed Dynamo; Lincoh United v Tratford; Tamsorth v Congeton Towns Paget Rangers v Baston Towns; Onton; Essivood Towns Reddiffe Borough v Dutiley Yount; Essivood Towns Reddiffe Borough v Dutiley Yount; Essivood Town v Reddiffe Borough v Dutiley Yount; Essivood Towns Reddiffe Borough v Dutiley Yount; Essivood Town v Reddiffe Borough v Dutiley Yount; Essivood Town teleptical Whatby Town; Fischey Athleto V Longh RAn; Knowsky Umited v Great Harmood Town; Sutton Codified Town v Gretne; Whitley Bay v Workson Town; Wenbley v Gravesand & Northifect Whytelasie v Margite; Corby Town v Nortport AFC; Yahi Town v Malessy; Conlandige v Newport IfW; Oxford Cdy v Crideriard Town v Resport Page; Town v Theme United Walthon & Hercham v Staines Town; Aldershot Town v Citydon; Wotgerdowile v Fisher Athletoc; Crawley Town v Norgestonian;

SPORTING DIGEST Brackley Town v Worcester City; Aethord Town v VS Rugby; Hampton v Wolongham Town: Ser-sham United v Rothwell Town: Bildencay; Town v Grass Affebrat: Roundred v Chestacy; Town v Grass Affebrat: Roundred v Chestacy; Town v Grass Affebrat: Roundred v Chestacy; Town v Bernard v Baldock, Town: Cambridge City v Madernhead United; Wisbech Town v Leatherhead; Leyton Permant v Baldock, Town: Cambridge City v Madernhead United; Wisbech Town: Cambridge City v Madernhead United; Wisbech Town: Cambridge City v Madernhead United; Washe Finat Round qualifying; (6 Sapth; Eastington Collegy v Morron & Stockton, Ancients; Brandon United v Pennth; Glapwell v Hell Road; Rangers: Oldham Town: v Backley: Burscough v Blackpool (When) Rouss; Long Eaton United v Harworth Ct; Glasson North End v Vasurbal Git; Mality Man v Amola Town: Remisbotton United v Chadderton; S Helens Town v Osselt Town; Penshore Town v Welling-borough Town: Shrind Iown v Welndersfeld; Barties Town v Warboy; Town: Johnstell United; Brantree Town v Warboy; Town: Johnstell United; Brantree Town v Warboy; Town: Johnstell United; Brantree Town v Warboy; Town: Johnstell Variad; Somersham Town v Warboy; Town: Johnstell Warboy; Warboy; Town: Johnstell Warboy; Warb

Golf

Golf
US WOMEN'S OPEN (Cornellus, Oregon)
Laciting final-round scores (US unless state
ed; 274 A Nicholes (GB) 70 65 67 71. 275
N Lopes 69 68 69 69 2. 277 K Rottus 68 69
74 68. 278 K Webb (Aus) 73 72 65 68. 278
S Croce fto 72 69 71 67; I Haddmay (GB) 71
70 67 71. 280 T Green 74 70 71 65; M Redman 74 67 70 69, 282 P Sheetson 72 71 71
68; C Johnson 72 68 73 69; D Oce-Jones Comi
72 67 73 70; A Fukushima Uspain 71 71 69
71: D Andrews 74 71, 16 71, 284 J Initiger
72 66 76 70; D Pepper 72 70 72 70; B Burton 73 72 69 70; L Neumann (Swe) 67 70
76 71; D Richard 68 70 73 73, 286 7 Johnson (GB) 69 74 71 71; K Williams 71 71 67
76, 689: 299 C Perce 71 71 73 71, 287 76
Matthew 76 69 70 72, 288 K Marshell 72 71
73 72.

GPEN CHAMPHONSHIP Qualifiers (GB and Inf

73 72.

OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP Qualifiers (E8 and in traines statud); GLASGOW GAILES (par 71); 134 J Remety (F) 66 68, 135 K Date; US) 66 66; W Westner (S4) 66 69; S Duriso (US) 67 68, 138 M Melor E9 67, V Philips; 70 66, 137 T Gogste (Ger) 69 68; R Lecquein (F) 67 Or. G Dodd (Just 69 68; J Stagnaturer (Neth) 70 67, RYTME BOGSTOE (par 71); 133 J Fernona (USA) 67 68, 135 G Ghei (Ind) 67 68, 136 R Bosel 69 67; J Payne 66 70; R Dave

(Auc) 67 69; "8 Howard 68 68, 137 DA Russell 67 70; A Sandywell 67 70; G Orr 67 70, 138 P Haugsrud (Nor) 69 69; M Roe 67 71; A Crear 70 68; T Purcer (US) 71 67 (after playoff), KILMARNOCK BARASSIE (par 73); 138 S BOLOMBEY 69 69; P O'Malley (Nus) 67 71, 139 D Tapping 68 71; "S Webster 68 71; S Day (IS) 17 68, 140 G Musphy 68 72; R Katson (Swell 71 69, 1441 G Brand Jur 71 70; C Massin 72 69; P Harhott 69 72; G Clark 71 70, C Massin 72 69; P Harhott 69 72; G Clark 71 70, C Massin 72 69; P Bahdey 73 69; P Bahdey 73 69; P Call 70 72; N WESTERN GALLES (par 71; 135 J Coopers (Ng) 67 69; B McGovern 68 67, 138 Y Taylor 69 67; D Howall 69 67; 137 "S Young 69 69; J Kelly 70 67; A Cathera (Ng) 68 68; A Magee (US) 68 69; J Cathera (Swell 69 70; 137 Miller 70 69; P Curry 68 70; C Miller 70 69; P Curry 68 70; C Good Valley in: Land

P Curry 68 70.

Quad CTY CLASSIC (Coef Valley, II): Leading finel scotes (All USS: 285 D forms 67 66 67 65; 288 J Johnston 70 67 69 62 8 Crembler 71 85 65 67 67 68 67 65 69 67, 289 8 Fabel 68 67 65 69 67, 289 8 Fabel 68 67 65 69 67 60 D Rummells 68 70 95 67; R Cochran 66 67 68 69, GOLF POUNDATION WEETABUX AGE GROUP CHAMPONSHIPS (Bloosley); Regional final winners: Boys: Under-18: 75 P Wheetcruft (Norticop). Under-15: 75 S Lutin (Woburn). Under-14: 78 N Permier (Bloswich), Under-13: 89 M Pates (Moseley). Birlis: Under-17:

TODAY'S FIXTURES Rugby Union TOUR MATCH (Outs Representative XV v W Football

Cricket

Cricket
BOYES STONES CHALLENGE (one day; 11.0):
Searborough: Youshine v Netherlands.
ADM RISK TROPHY (one day; 11.0): Chelmsford: Esser v MCC Young Crisk-tras: Bristol-Gloucestership v Worcesterships. Welbuck CC: Notinghampher v Derbyshite.
SEONED 31 CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of four; 11.0): Cambox Comerset v Worwickshire. The Orat: Surrey v herd.
MINIOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of box; 11.0): Carlisle: Cumberland v Climbingshire. Weginporthe Dorset v Comment.

Other sport Officer Spour, Star Cup Somi-finat: Bradlorq v Eastbourne. Premier Languer Hull v Long Ecoto. Annabeur Longuer St Austell v Ipamico del Kingb. Lynn. 158485: Men's Challenger Tournament (Manchester). Rugby League

Rugby Union Second division Moseley have signed John Liley from Lelcester on a two year full-time contract. Although Liley has played most of his senior rugby at full-back, Moseley intend to switch him to fly-half.

West Hartiepool, relegated into the sec-ond division last season, have signed Western Samoa international and Auck-land scrum-half Tu Nu Ualiti Itda. Speedway
SUNDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Eithe Longoe:
Swindon 50 Covertry 40, Premier Longoe:
Swindon 55 Aren Essex 35; Gleagow 52
Swindon): 55 Aren Essex 35; Gleagow 52
Swindon): B Andersen (Coveriny) bt L Adams
(Swindon): B Andersen (Coveriny) bt L Adams
(Swindon): B Andersen (Coveriny) bt L Adams
(Swindon): Assetter Ineaguer Western
Warriors 36 Oxfort Cube 42; Latinaiten 32 Peternorough 45; Burston 38 Berwick 39.

TODAY'S NUMBER

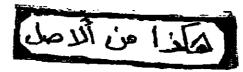
The gold medals won so far by the 19-year-old Algerian Baya-Rahouli at the Arab Games in Beirut, Rahouli, who collected her first gold in the women's long jump on Sunday, won the 100 metres and 100m hurdles yesterday.

HALL OF FAME CHAMPIONSHIPS GRASS COURT TOURNAMENT (Newport, Rhode Is-land) Final: S Sarguen (Arm) bt B Steven (NZ)

7-6 4-6 7-5.
BRISTOL CHALLENGER TROPHY Final: S
Pessosolido (t) bt M Petchey (GB) 7-6 7-6.
MEN'S MERICEDES CUP (Statitgart) First
rounds K Marm (Mon) bt J Novak (C Ren) 7-6
4-6 7-5; F Santoro (Fr) bt M Filippur (Un 7-6
6-3: I Inropsechid (Ger) bt M Dennen (C Ren)
6-3: 4-6 6-4; S Dosedel (C Ren) bt D Hrbaty
(Slov) 7-6 6-2; M Goelner (Ger) bt R Reneberg
(US) 4-6 7-5: 1-0 reg, F Dewalt (Ben) bt 8 kunbacker 6-4: 1-0 ret; M Santer (Ser) bt 7 Johanson
(Swe) 6-7 7-6 7-5.
DAVIS CUP Euro-African zone, Group Two
Calon; Eight 3: Littlania 2 (H Humedeh bt E
Carlovas 6-2 7-6 8-7 5-7 2-3)
FED CUP World Group One (Brookfane, Mo):
US 5 Japan 0 (L Devenort bt A Sugyarra C-4
7-6; K Po bt N Savennatsu 6-2 8-4; Lovenport

#### Can we improve your bottom line?

See Mercury's ad on page 13.





# ICC throws new light on old problem

DEREK PRINGLE

Cricket Correspondent

The pressures of popularising the game in a competitive market place have forced the International Cricket Council to use floodlights to end what most see as cricket's biggest turn-off for spectators: "Bad

light stopped play."
Yesterday's annual meeting at Lord's, a good one for the game's progressives, if not its pragmatists, also decided to broaden the

power of the umpire. "Providing both countries ree before a Test series, artificial lighting may be turned on in conditions of adverse natural light to assist play to continue within the normal hours of play, David Richards, the ICC schief executive, said.

The rule will, in theory at least, prevent the frustrating sitnations such as the one that arose at Edgbaston in 1992 when England played - or more accurately did not play - against scope of television replays to in-clude catches, a move that many washout, just two balls were

will see as further weakening the power of the umpire. bowled on day two before the batsmen came off for bad light.

Then, a single ball's play meant no refund, a clause the England and Wales Cricket Board have now amended. At the time though, the public's patience snapped and there were ugly scenes as spectators forced there way into the England

dressing-room seeking justice. However, before the paying public gets over-excited, one or two logistical problems exist, not least that all cricket grounds sing permanent floodlights are to be found overseas. As bad light tends to impinge far less

it as far as home matches are con-cerned. Nevertheless, the ICC will consider the practicality of day/night Tests more strongly at

next year's meeting. Apparently, it is the twin effects of a prolonged dusk and an early evening dew that prevents night cricket being viable in England. If that is so, ground authorities are unlikely to install expensive lighting on the slight chance that some heavy black clouds might blow over.

In any case, if floodlights could be shipped in for Test matches -

of the whift of a red herring about mobile floodlights in a 40-over game next Monday at Old Traf-ford - they will not be effective unless a white ball is used with black screens, or the traditional white sightscreens can be illuminated without too much glare.

Far more pressing, and sensible, is the ICC's wish to have the volume of international cricket regulated. Last year, 41 Tests and 101 limited-over internationals were played around the world. Although, Richards said it was an issue that should be raised with the various cricketing boards as "a matter of pri-

ority," the ICC still offered its own yardstick.

"The consensus," Richards continued, "is that each country should play no more than 10 to 12 Tests and 25 to 30 one-day internationals per annum. The programme should ideally include an eight-week break to allow players to mentally recharge and overcome minor injuries."

Yet if England's year is taken from last December to this, including the limited over tournament in Sharjah, they will have played 11 Tests and a possible 15 one-dayers. While the one-day tally is way below the

guideline, the Test count is not, a balance few but the marketing men will want to alter.

Like the use of floodlights, extending the role of television replays and third umpires to include catches is also something that will be met with scepticism despite its endorsement by the current Test captains who met last Friday. In the wake of the controversial slip catch that Nasser Hussain claimed off Greg Blewett at Old Trafford, a catch the square leg umpire ruled out, technology has been allowed to run wild.

As anyone possessing both pa-

tience and a TV set will tell yet the replay evidence was not co-egorical. Indeed it took Sky technicians a day and a half-sky

magnify and freeze-frame the piculated picture, before as much a fall micron short of Hussain's fine as cricket will need floodlights. simply to fit in the extra TV is plays which every umpire. ing trial by couch potatoes, in bound to call for. But while for er wrong decisions may give players added peace of mind. The will not give the rest of us much to talk about.

## **Mize** fails to make **Open** mark

Golf

ANDY FARRELL reports from Troon

However many jackets of a verdant colouring are owned by those who were involved in final qualifying yester-day, Larry Mize possesses the one that they would all want. The American owns a Green Jacket from Augusta National as winner of the US Masters, but his sartorial correctness no longer assures him of a place in

the Open. His exemption for winning the Masters in 1987 has long since run out, but while Jeff Shiman, Fuzzy Zoeller and 1989 Open runner-up Wayne Grady, for various reasons, withdrew from the qualifying, Mize was at Western Gailes battling for a place at Troon on Thursday along with an assortment of touring pros, club professionals

and amateur players. And as it turned out, he did not make it. A round of 70, to gether with an earlier score of 72, left him short of the required mark. The 38-year-old holed a putt of some 30 feet at the seventh hole, but apart from that one moment of optimism, his efforts were rewarded with no more than 17 pars.

I missed a couple of short putts at the first two holes for birdies which would have been a nice start, but it wasn't to be." Mize said. "That was pretty much the story of my entire

\*Obviously, I'm disappoint ed at not making the British Open. I've had to try and qualify before so it's not a new experience for me, but it doesn't get any casier.'

Mize played last week at



Loch Lomond but only discovered the day before the event that exemption spots were no longer available. In past years, the top-five, not otherwise exempt, got in from the tournament prior to the Open. "Had known it would not have affected my decision to play at Loch Lomond," he said. "It was good preparation and a chance

to get acclimatised."
While the two Americans

Scott Hoch, "due to a change in my personal schedule", and Kenny Perry withdrew from the Open yesterday opening up two more spots from the qualifying, taking the total to 54, it does not change the suspicion that those lucky enough to get through such go straight out and buy a lottery ticket. The odds

are better. "I'm a nervous wreck," said Roger Davis, who qualified at

good form to finish second to American John Kernohan. "It's easier playing in the Open, the Australian added. He has had to qualify four times, the last time he did so successfully be-

ing in 1977. Paul Curry was on the leaderboard at Loch Lomond, but was involved in a play-off at Westem Gailes. "It is so difficult play-

lax until you maybe get two or three ahead of what you think is okay," said Curry, who bo-geyed the 15th and 16th, then birdied the last to avoid a nineway play-off for two places.

Among those involved were Barry Lane and Warren Bladon, the former Amateur champion who is now a professional. Natterday still kept him alive. urally, it also included Neil

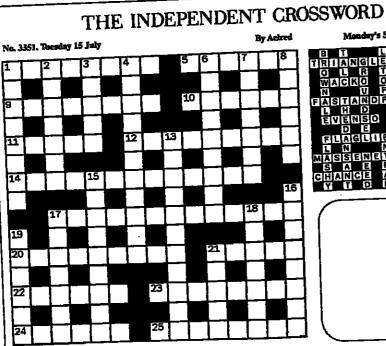
he said. Turley was four over with five to play in the regionballs, but his name was not on the Open trophy. Choi lost a ball al qualifier at Copt Heath. "I thought I was on my way home then," he said. But he birdied three of his remaining holes and got him into a 13-way play-off for three spots. Another birdie at the first extra hole did the trick. A birdie at the last yes-

at the eighth hole at Kilmarnock Barassie, but while he was looking found a ball he had lost in the same spot during practice on Saturday. His honesty was not rewarded for he finished two shots out of the qualifying mark.

A defence for those Ameri-

from Andrew Magee, who qualified on 137 at Western Gailes. I was very annoyed by articles criticising some of the Americans," Magee said. "What I'd like to know is how many Europeans come over and try to qualify for our Open, probably

> Qualifying scores Digest, page 25



11 Tense spots? Rubbish (5) 12 Clergyman has debts run

14 Source of power craftily exoluded? (8.5) 17 Price to muse about, a pound for gold? (8,5) 20 Could be trouble in posh

21 New babe's unknown in monastery (5)

ACROSS

1 Animal given something to cat by friar, we hear (8) 5 Almost succeed with man's hackneyed phrase

9 Charge could make one thus blue? (8) 10 Business making brand of

cooker keeps objective (6)

up by others? (9)

port accommodating one? 6

22 Wails in distress about new adjunct to marriage?

23 Film could be not made public (2.6) 24 Capital comes back into writer's reflections (6)

25 Finished getting no score, it's a hopeless cause (4,4) DOWN

Original bit of Haydn? (8) One then held account to be wrong (7) To come up to speed of sound takes time (5)

This lacquer's not right? Then fix to shift (4,7) One displaced by calcula-tor has to record potential 21 Notice suppressed hostiliharm about it (9)

Study outing which stays at the same level (7) Pass changes please (6) 13 Climb to put slate on

church for just reward 15 Get better of superior country (9) 16 Quietly relax to listen to

tape (8) 17 Beginning to involve British Library in trouble 18 Put question before a

19 in place to get drink, about one, in entrance ty to recognition (5)

University presentation

### Football

ALAN NIXON

A chat with Alan Sugar on his yacht in the south of France has smoothed out any problems regarding David Ginola's personal requirements jumping ship at Newcastle United.

The 30-year-old French winger will join Tottenham for a fee of around £2.6m and among his new team-mates could be the Crewe Alexandra midfielder Gareth Whalley.

Whalley has flown out to Norway with Tottenham for the pre-season trip and if he impresses, Crewe can expected to receive a cheque for £1m. Whalley is in dispute with Crewe and has been told he can

Ironically, Whalley is get-ting his chance to join Spurs because his former team-mate, Danny Murphy, turned them down in favour of Liverpool. Another young talent on the move yesterday was Grimsby's highly rated winger John Oster,

who became the latest recruit of the new Everton manager, Howard Kendall. The Wales Under-21 international, a target of both Manchester United and Newcastle, will cost the Goodison club £1.5m. Kendall is continuing his

more problematic pursuit of Middlesborough's £7.5m-rated striker, Fabrizio Ravanelli. Apparently, convincing the Italian that Goodison is the place to enhance his international prospects is Kendall's chief concern. He said: "There is still a lot of work to do. We have

to persuade him to come here in World Cup year and show this is the best club to get his Italian squad place back. Hopefully he will come over and talk." The stripping of Crewe's

young playing assets continued yesterday as Leicester City became the latest Premier League club to turn to the Gresty Road academy. The Welsh interna-tional midfielder, Robbie Savage, has signed a three-year contract with the club after snubbing the advances of Crystal Palace and Hearts. Leicester will try to avoid a tribunal by offering £300,000 for the former Manchester United trainee.

The Brazilian centre-back Celio Silva will complete his £3.5m move to Manchester United when he receives a work permit after agreeing personal terms with the Premiership champions.

Sugar sweetens Ginola's move to Spurs The club solicitor, Maurice Watkins, confirmed: "We have concluded negotiations with both the chib and the player. We

> til we get the work permit, which could take a few weeks." Stoke City's new manager, Chic Bates, has lined up £2mrated Swindon striker Peter Thome to replace Mike Sheron. Thorne met Stoke last night after rejecting terms at Swindon. Birmingham will gamble on

the fitness of the Coventry striker Peter Ndlovu after a medical last week revealed a knee problem. The 24-yearold, who joined Coventry for £20,000 from Bulawayo Highlanders in Zimbabwe, has been signed on a pay-as-you-play plan following an initial down

withdrawn its initial offer of

One Italian import who will be staying at his club next sea-son is Celtic's Paolo Di Canio. He has settled his dispute with can't complete the transfer unthe Glasgow club and plays in tonight's opening game of the Dublin Quadrangular Journament against Derry City at Lansdowne Road at 6pm. Celtic also have reason to cheer following the signing of a multi-million pound deal for the next

three seasons with Umbro. Later in the evening Newcastle United and the Dutch champions, PSV Eindhoven, meet in the second game before an anticipated crowd of 25,000.

with an 8.15pm kick-off.
Newcastle are likely to be without Darren Peacock, howpayment to Coventry of ever, as the defender is to have \$200,000. Birmingham had an operation for a stornach minny.

but Waddle said: "Chris is the

sort of experienced player we

are looking for and he will com-

bine his goalkeeping with some

player known to Waddle from

back Phil Whelan from First Di-

vision rivals Middlesbrough for

Oxford have bought centre-

his time at Hillsborough

#### leave. He was previously on tri-al at Liverpool last season. Hateley takes over at Hull after Dolan's dismissal

more than two weeks ago, but

Mark Hateley is to take his first step into management at Hull City. The former England striker will take over today, 24 hours after the Third Division club paved the way for his appoint-

ment by dismissing Terry Dolan, writes Alan Nixon Hateley is a free agent after a brief spell at Rangers where he played a minor role in helping them clinch their ninth successive Scottish Premier title. He had also been in talks with

Raith Rovers. The 35-year-old Hateley. who also played for Coventry City, Portsmouth, Milan, Mona-

co, Queen's Park Rangers and Leeds United, emerged as the first choice after previous at-tempts to lure Peter Beardsley and Chris Waddle failed. Others in contention included Gordon Cowans, who is at

Stockport County. Hateley, who had talks with new City chairman Tim Wilby over the weekend, will be allowed to bring in new players. Dolan and his assistant, Jeff Lee, were originally dismissed

a delay in the takeover meant they were called back to the club by the outgoing chairman, Martin Fish, to take training last Yesterday's announcement

brings to an end an unhappy sixyear reign at Boothferry Park for the pair, who took the club down two divisions in their spell in charge.

The former England goalkeeper Chris Woods is set to be-

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also hoping to land the versa-tile Michael Williams from ers." Williams, 21, is another Sheffield Wednesday, also on a free transfer. Woods, who won 43 caps for

come Chris Waddle's first sign-

ing at Second Division Burnley.

into his first managerial job, is

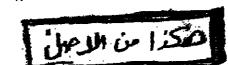
Waddie, less than a week

England during an eight-year spell up to 1993 has played for six clubs including Norwich, Rangers and Wednesday.

He will be 38 later this year,

£170,000. Whelan, 25 joins on a three-year contract. Wigan have signed Bolton

winger David Lee, 29, on a three-year contract for







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